

TOC H JOURNAL

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Communications for next month must reach the Editor not later than the 15th of this month.

TOC H AND THE COLOUR QUESTION

The correspondent who sends us news (see page 94) of the Birthday celebrations of Toc H in the Orange Free State, Griqualand West and Bechuanaland, held at Kimberley on December 8, notes that "perhaps the most remarkable moment of the evening was when 'Gaika' (Padre W. H. Kinsey) read a letter from TUBBY." This letter was judged so good—"especially in its references to the 'colour question'"—that "it would be hard to imagine a more fitting Birthday message." Considerable extracts from it are here printed. The first section quoted referred originally to local difficulties, but Tubby's message is universal.

THE real truth surely is that everything which is really living, is really in danger. "Living dangerously," that well-worn phrase of Nietzsche's, is thus a mere tautology for living at all. The inanimate has no life to lose, and no soul to stake in a supreme adventure. Toc H is marvellously alive. It needs the curb rather than the whip; the sedative rather than the stimulant. Day by day, all the year round, and country by country all round the world, this strange Society with its strange name proceeds upon its destiny.

Men long to curb its strength, or jettison its principles; but in another mood the same men long to let it do through them whatever work God wills. The lesson of it all is surely simple. Even in these most tangled times a little faith goes a long way. Nothing impresses me more about Toc H than the way in which its now most junior members are firmly fixed in the belief that it will long outlast them. So never dream of a collapse; and take the troubles boldly; commanding every skeleton to come before you so that you may dispose of it in comfort at your leisure. God will sustain Toc H, mould it and use it as He thinks most fit; and make it His, not merely ours, as time and tide go by. The thing which you are building in South Africa will surely last until its purpose is fulfilled—unless meanwhile it should disown allegiance altogether . . .

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The papers you enclose include the Conference on the Colour question in Toc H South Africa. It would be mere madness for me thus to embark upon an issue fraught with such a tangle of unusual features in South Africa. Toc H has, as you know, no verdict of its own to administer; but leaves its leadership country by country, to the men God gives it. Ultimately, and in the fullness of time, there is no doubt whatever where the verdict of Christianity must rest. Science now tells us that all life indeed is one, stretching from the mollusc and the protoplasm up the steep stairs which lead to the saint, the mystic, and the poet. Within this tremendous compass the Colour question assumes a somewhat lesser aspect, as part only of the whole racial and international problem.

This problem, however, cannot best be solved by any abrupt impatience,

“There is no workman, whoever he be,
Who worketh both well and hastily.”

And God, greatest Workman, to Whom our universe is but one wayward flower, will scarcely bless the forcing of His hand. In Christ all faithful men are indeed already one. In Him all ethnic variance is but the divers facets of His radiant glory. The extremes of culture and ignorance, of ownership and service, of liberty and law, of sex and age, are solemnly surrendered. There is neither Jew nor Greek, nor bond nor free, nor male nor female; all are one.

Yet for the time we must content ourselves with pushing forward step by step along the road of understanding. To ignore animosities and divergences, differences of creed, and caste, and culture, and of colour; to say these things are not where they most plainly are, is to deny the evidence of our senses, and to give no scope to the wisdom He has set within us for the gradual guidance of men's minds towards the common goal. The one mistake, it seems to me, is to stablish anywhere a negative proposition as binding upon a Christian Society. The Society may be forced to act for the time being within the limits of one racial group; but it must ever preserve at its heart the longing to extend to others. Its present impotence to do so will then be a check continually at variance with its spirit, and the spirit will so chafe against its bonds that in due time it will find itself free.

Thus, as things stand at present, Toc H must always begin among men of the race from which it first emerged; this is but natural; and, if there is anything God hates, it is the wilfully unnatural attitude of mind. Toc H must then embrace by sympathy races akin to our own in instinct and tradition; thence it can again go forward and find forerunners in other minds eager for what it brings, yet widely aloof from much in English England. All this must be a natural process, too sacred to hasten or to delay. The standard of intelligence is really a far greater barrier than that of colour. Toc H in Colombo can include the Ceylonese and Cingalese, and of course the Ceylon Burgher; but it cannot for many years include the coolie, who simply would not know the A, B, C of the instincts which make its cheerful freedom possible. Toc H in Bombay has one Branch wholly European, and a Group wholly Indian, on the best terms with one another and subject to occasional interfusion. But the main task of Toc H for the next few years is surely to provide the child races with a working example of European civilisation, expressing Christianity in acts of tolerance and unselfishness which need no gift of tongues.

TUBBY.

A Personal Apology

The editing of this JOURNAL is a “one-man show,” and it is therefore up to the present “incumbent” to make a personal apology for the late appearance of the last three issues. The Birthday Festival, which monopolises the energies of several members of H.Q. staff for some weeks, delayed the December number. The delightful but considerable job of producing the “fat” January number was aggravated by travelling engagements (delightful—but considerable), by personal anxieties, and by the illness of the Editor's principal aider and abettor at our printers. The present issue has been largely edited from a bed of 'flu. These, dear readers, are obviously excuses and not valid reasons. But we are trying hard to do better!—Ed.

THE BOYS' CLUB MOVEMENT

We are much indebted for this article to RICHARD F. MILLARD, Secretary of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, who is already known to a good many of our members and who recently addressed the S.S.B. Conference (see p. 65)—ED.

THE Boys' Club Movement is one of the oldest movements in connection with boys' work and it would probably be impossible to discover who first adopted the Club Method. We are told that the first London club was formed over sixty years ago in Woolwich and "run" by General Gordon.

The National Association of Boys' Clubs, which is the outcome of the development of the Club Movement and the growth of Local Federations, has been in existence barely three years. The originator of the scheme was F. G. D'Aeth of Liverpool, who, together with C. A. Wrench (London Federation), E. J. Humble (Liverpool Boys' Association) and C. E. Clift (Salford Lads' Club), and other Club Leaders, approached the National Council of Social Service for advice and assistance. The Association came into being following representative conferences of Club Leaders at Birmingham and Toynbee Hall; it was formally launched in the autumn of 1926 at a third conference in Chester when it was announced that H.R.H. Prince Henry (now the Duke of Gloucester) had consented to be President. Up to this time, all the work of building up an organisation had been undertaken by the National Council of Social Service with Captain Ellis as Honorary Secretary. It was not until the spring of 1927 that a full-time Secretary was appointed and headquarters were established, which about eight months ago were moved to 27, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

There are now over 750 clubs affiliated to the Association and fourteen Federations including the Scottish Association and the South Wales Miners' Boys' Federation, representing well over 200,000 working boys between the ages of 14 and 18. The Association publishes a quarterly magazine named *The Boy*, and arranges Annual Conferences of club leaders which are steadily growing in size and interest. The last two Conferences included representatives from all parts of the United Kingdom and also several from similar overseas organisations.

Another interesting piece of work undertaken has been in co-operation with the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees. The inaccessibility of good literature for boys between the ages of 14 to 18 and the difficulty of building up in the clubs libraries containing not only good literature but also well-bound and well-printed books has long been emphasised by social workers. Under the Trustees' Scheme clubs which have an active membership of at least thirty boys between 14 and 18 may secure Library Grants on agreeing to replenish the Library annually to the extent of 10 per cent. of the grant. Through the Association, grants amounting to £8,000 have already been sanctioned and nearly three hundred permanent libraries for boys between 14 and 18 have been set up in Clubs. The experience and the knowledge of Library work in Boys' Clubs gained through the establishment of this scheme has been little short of remarkable.

LOCAL FEDERATIONS.

The mainspring of the Club Movement is the Local Federation. Boys' Clubs are of many types, from a small group of boys held together by the personality of the Leader, without premises of its own and possessing only the simplest equipment, to a large club with its own building and a strong club tradition. Though it may be difficult to convince the average Club Leader that linking up with others has practical advantages, it is becoming more and more obvious where federations exist that it would mean the disbandment of many clubs doing good work if these federations ceased to function or in any way curtailed their activities.

The functions of a Federation are many, but the chief objects are mainly :—

- (1) To consolidate and extend the work of the Boys' Clubs in any given area.
- (2) To promote competitions and friendly intercourse between members of affiliated clubs.
- (3) To provide opportunities (either by conferences, meetings or publications, etc.) for those interested in the management of clubs, to exchange opinions and experiences as to the best ways and means of extending Club work.
- (4) To enable those boys who have shared better opportunities to meet at Clubs or in Camp with those who are wage-earners and so establish a real and nobler basis of understanding.

A boys' club is defined by the National Association as that which has a membership of at least 15 boys between the ages of 14 and 18 who meet at least once a week at a regular meeting place, under responsible management, and pay a subscription. All clubs, large and small, receive the same advantages in the Federation, and special arrangements should be made for inter-club activities for the smaller clubs ; through the Federation, the larger and well-established clubs have golden opportunities of assisting the club life of the smaller. There is no limit to the number of clubs, if eligible, that may join the Federation.

INTER-CLUB ACTIVITIES.

Through the Federation's competitions a standard both of sportsmanship and efficiency may be set up and maintained. By healthy competition in games, organised by fully qualified judges and referees, the small club from the back street may compete with the larger club. The development of the team spirit is the real training of citizenship. A well-organised Federation, by being more able than independent Club Leaders to appeal to those who can and should assist, renders a national service for the development of the boy as a complete unit in association with groups of other boys.

Well-established Federations are able to extend their activities even further than this, and not only has the London Federation been able to organise teams of working boys to compete with others representing Sandhurst and the Army Boys at Aldershot, but as the activities of the Association grow, there are indications of a useful development of inter-federation competitions, etc.

OTHER SPHERES.

But the work of a federation is not merely the organising of competitions, conferences, camps and gatherings of boys. Through the Federation, men and women, intimate with the difficulties and problems of boyhood and adolescent life, are able to give expression to their experiences and call attention to reforms or modifications that should be made in the interests of the boys they serve. The federation is in close touch with, and is able to make powerful representations to, statutory bodies and others dealing with probation, emigration, employment, education, etc. Not the least of the problems of the present moment is that of providing adequate open spaces and playing fields for the rising generation.

A striking example of the possibilities of a local federation in regard to this problem has been the recent achievement of the Liverpool Boys' Association which now control and manage for the use of their affiliated clubs over one hundred acres of magnificent playing fields. This, and similar advantages for individual clubs (such as the federation store now long established in London where affiliated clubs may hire or obtain camp and club equipment and gear at cheap rates) can never be achieved by small clubs working independently. Alone, the task is heavy and often hopeless. Working together through the Federation, strength and knowledge are brought together in regard to matters of utmost importance to the boys in the area covered by the Federation.

I cannot omit here to remind my readers of two other now well-known experiments achieved through the instrumentality of the federations already mentioned, namely, the London "Camp of Understanding" and the Liverpool "Lunch Hour Club" for boys in City offices.

THE PART OF TOC H

Now you ask me "How can Toc H help?" During the last few months I have been a privileged participant in many Branch and Group discussions. Toc H, as I see it, is struggling to give expression to the spirit of unity and love for which this beloved country of ours is, literally, yearning. Often, expression is found in the formation or running of a Boys' Club. More than this is needed.

For generations we have had with us the idealist and bohemian who find "slumming" a sort of aesthetic mission, and to-day we still have an abundance of people who "do" so many nights a week, in the East End, marshalled about cleverly and deftly by tired, underpaid professional social workers. In established democracy it is unreasonable for one section of the community to stand idle while another, however rich, leisured or well-informed, renders social service, and the time has indeed passed when the community can reasonably go on expecting all its recruits from Public Schools. The only sectional division that can be made for this great cause is from one generation to another. The Boys' Club in the back alley or the derelict tenement is fertile ground for the production of personal service workers, and provided he can feel assured that there is someone behind him to whom he can turn for advice and guidance from time to time, the average club boy is willing to try his hand. Take the "light of the Lamp" into the clubs and do not merely develop social service within the club as expressed in such duties as running the Library or keeping the registers, etc., but lead the

boys to regard their club as having for them a social service purpose as much as any Toc H Branch or Group.

There is a club in the north of England composed entirely of working boys who have undertaken the definite work of sick-visiting. The Club Leader once told me how it started. One of his boys was dying, and in desperation he arranged for some of the club boys to undertake to visit him regularly. Instead of the novel, they took him the *Gem* or the *Union Jack*, and instead of taking fruit, they stole the grapes; but they took the news, football results and details of club gossip. They fitted up a bedside wireless and in three weeks' time they were pulling him about in a bath chair for which the rightful owner was searching high and low. The boy recovered. This is only one instance, but it is not difficult to think of the many pieces of social service that club lads could, if properly inspired, be led to undertake, such as play-centre work, the organising of games in the parks and open spaces, school after-care, probation and "case" work. It is our boys now in the clubs who must be inspired, so that when the time comes for them to leave the club they may be ready to take the places of those who now, many through the agency of Toc H, are relied upon. Is not this the very aim of Toc H?

R. F. M.

THE SUNDAY NIGHT PROBLEM

MEMBERS who attended the Northern Conference at Mark XIV, Salford, in February, 1926, will remember that "Mac" of Sheffield made an impassioned plea for the young people of both sexes who, having nothing to do and nowhere to go on Sunday evenings, produce the problem of the "monkey parade" in the streets of most English cities. Mac contended that churchgoers—a minority of the population including a very small proportion of the younger folk—attended their evening services, and afterwards went home to their suppers and firesides without giving a thought to those who were spending the whole evening in the streets outside. Where the churches and municipalities had failed to tackle this question, Mac urged that Toc H all over the country ought to see one of its most urgent and proper jobs. The Conference delegates were much moved by his plea, and a useful discussion followed. A very few of those present were able to point to specific attempts, mostly on a very small and inadequate scale, to touch the problem in their home towns, most members had no evidence of such attempts being made, and all agreed that the problem was real and the need of a solution urgent. Since then, Toc H in various places has co-operated with efforts already in being, or has helped to start them and carry them on. References to this job will be found, for instance, in the news in last month's JOURNAL from Ilford, Woking and Birmingham (see pages 36, 37). Members at Leicester, in conjunction with "Copec," began some time ago with a Sunday-night club which had its early ups and downs, but has won through against difficulties and misunderstandings. This experiment is thus described in the Northampton *Express and Star* of December 12:—

"Some members of Toc H and Copec . . . hired a large hall, which was very soon crowded, and furnished it with chairs and tables, arranged sociably in group

round a centre platform, where a chairman presided. His object was to promote friendliness and to encourage the family spirit. He was helped in this by a number of keen young stewards and stewardesses, who were each responsible for making friendly contacts with certain groups. Magazines and other literature were supplied, and light refreshments provided at very small profit. A band played, and soloists occasionally visited the club.

Membership cards were issued at a (voluntary) charge of 6d., on which the aims of the club were simply stated: To keep Sunday nights really well; to be pally, but orderly; to be courteous to visitors; to make the show self-supporting; to make the city proud of the show.

Membership stood at 480 last April, and the record of conduct has been good. A thousand different people had used the club since October, 1927, and two club members had served loyally on a small committee. Warm sympathisers in the town had given help, and in spite of hard times the members had subscribed to collections.

This experiment has so clearly proved the need for such a plan that this year it is hoped to hire a hall to hold 2,000, who would otherwise spend their leisure in the streets. A big orchestra will play, and there will probably be massed community singing. Also a reading room, where silence will be required; a lecture room for the visitors who care to use it; and other sideshows. The chairman and a large body of stewards will be responsible for the spirit and order of the meetings."

But the most detailed report on the working of a Sunday night club comes from Croydon, where the "Rendezvous" in the Baths Hall has been running for several winters. It may help other Branches and Groups if we make considerable extracts from an article on the subject which appeared in the November number (Vol. II, No. 11) of *The Reflector*, the typed monthly of Croydon, Carshalton and Coulsdon Toc H:—

"A few years ago, the behaviour of young men and girls in the main streets of Croydon on Sunday evenings was a source of anxiety to many thoughtful townspeople. So when applications were made to the local magistrate for licences to permit the opening of cinemas on Sunday evenings, many people argued that by providing some form of amusement and shelter for these young people the cinemas would be supplying a real want. On the other hand, deputations representing the Christian denominations of Croydon, headed by Padre Pat McCormick (then Vicar of Croydon, now of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields) held that the opening of cinemas on Sunday evenings would bring in its train undesirable results, for profit rather than amusement might be the chief aim of the proprietors. There was the danger of attendants being employed seven days a week, whilst the pictures shown might not always be of a nature fit to grace the Sabbath. The result was that licences were not issued, but Padre McCormick, who felt that it was up to Christian people of Croydon to do something constructive to solve the problem, stated that if the Borough Council would allow the Baths Hall to be used on Sunday evenings he would do his best to persuade the Croydon Christian Council, representing all Christian denominations, to run a *rendezvous*

for these young people and so take them off the streets. The Borough Council agreed to the proposal, and asked only for the cost of lighting and heating the Baths Hall, which comes to about 30s. a night. This charge, which totals about £35 a season, is met by the Christian Council.

Having secured the Hall and arranged about expenses, the next problem to be faced was how to run the show, and this job the Council put into the very capable hands of Mr. Zuppinger, one of their members. The main object was to entice to the Rendezvous boys and girls over 16 who habitually met on Sunday evenings. Evidently what was required was not only a meeting-place but the kind of place where they could spend the evening in some sort of harmless amusement. It was therefore decided that games of chess, draughts and dominoes should be provided and also magazines for those who preferred to read. A further idea was the provision of a canteen at which tea, biscuits and cake might be purchased at cost price. This was made possible by the kind offers from the Parish Church, who lent crockery from Welcome Hall, and from several ladies who served at the canteen and did the washing-up. A Croydon resident kindly arranged loudspeakers so that the young people might listen to the wireless programme, whilst a member of the West Croydon Free Church volunteered to play the piano at intervals.

Now the 'Rendezvous' was to be open on Sunday evenings by a body representing the Churches of Croydon, and it might therefore have been expected that some form of religious observance would enter into the proceedings. But it was felt that the boys and girls for whom the Rendezvous was to cater would fight shy of any place in which they found themselves compelled to listen to prayers and hymns. Therefore, if it was to fulfil its purpose, nothing whatever in the shape of religious observance should be allowed.* This was a very wise decision—how wise was proved one evening when a Mission Band insisted on devoting the last half-hour of its performance to playing hymns, with the result that the Hall emptied rapidly after the first few bars and was very sparsely populated for the remainder of the evening. On the other hand, it was decided not to open the Hall until 8 p.m. so that it should not compete with the churches, so the hours were fixed from 8–10 p.m.

For stewards, a call was made upon Toc H, the Rovers and kindred bodies, some of whom were asked to attend at 7.15 p.m. to convey crockery from Welcome Hall and get the Baths Hall ready. When the first night came, small tables, with four chairs round each, were scattered in one half of the hall, and the ladies provided red and green squares of crepe paper for table-cloths, artistically written menus and in some cases vases of flowers. At the hour of eight the doors were opened, whilst sandwichmen paraded North End and High Street, advertising that a Rendezvous providing music, wireless and games was open. Padre McCormick's idea of providing for young people what had actually been given to Tommies during the War had become an actual fact.

The first Sunday nights were nights of experiment, whilst the numbers who entered the hall increased steadily from 300 to about 2,000. At first boys and girls

* Some other Toc H units running Sunday night clubs strongly dissent from this view and act otherwise.—Ed.]

seemed inclined to keep apart, and it was not for some time that they mixed together inside the Hall, though they would meet and part outside. With the increase in numbers came a corresponding increase in noise, and this kept away the better-class young people, who came at first out of curiosity; but this really helped the venture to fulfil its purpose of catering for the poorest, whose homes were perhaps anything but cheerful. At the same time there was no question of anyone spending a quiet evening in the Hall, and those who wished to indulge in games or reading had to apply a considerable amount of concentration.

The wireless feature did not last long. The solitary loudspeaker could not be heard the first night, whilst the increase in volume of sound produced by three or four at later evenings was more than counterbalanced by the increase in noise from the young people. Mr. Hingston struggled valiantly with the piano, but could not control the occasional outbursts of almost pandemonium. It was then decided to bring to our aid the now popular community singing, and community songs were provided. This experiment had a fair amount of success, but it was not well to have too much of it one evening, as some of the lads, tiring of "Billy Boy" and similar songs, set up a rival singing squad. The only method of controlling the noise proved to be by means of bands, who voluntarily came from the North End Hall and other places.

Some of the roughest of Croydon's young folk entered in groups, and trouble was experienced with some of them, particularly from one or two lads who had a somewhat crude idea of practical joking, such as leaving stink bombs about and interfering with games of dominoes or draughts. It also seemed to them fine fun to spoil some of the sets by appropriating a few pieces and taking them away. Again, youngsters who were normally under the age of 16 had a trick of raising their age on Sunday evenings, and it was necessary to put two stewards on the door to see that this unnatural attainment of adolescence did not gain admission to the Hall. On the whole, however, the order kept was very good and no really serious trouble was experienced the first year.

In the second winter (1927-28) a system of admission cards was introduced. Every boy or girl entering the Hall gave his or her name and address and received a card of admission for the season. If anyone became a nuisance in the Hall, his or her card could be taken away and so the worst behaved could be kept out—at least this was the case in theory. Actually, a boy whose card had been taken away might turn up another Sunday evening, procure another card and so get in, hoping not to be recognised. However, such cases could be discovered by keeping a watch on the register for names appearing more than once. Stewards on the door were then asked to watch for certain numbers, and questioned their holders if they turned up. The problem created by the disappearance of draughtsmen and dominoes in the previous year was tackled by asking for a deposit of 3d before any game was taken, the deposit being refunded on return. Boxes containing the men were numbered. In other respects the working of the Rendezvous was on similar lines to the previous year, the numbers attending being about 1,500 each week. In both years breakages of crockery were remarkably few and no attempts were made to interfere with the running of the canteen.

So much for the history of the 'Rendezvous' to the spring of last year.

What have been the results of its working? Is it doing good? Is it wanted and is it worth while? It is undoubtedly fulfilling its primary purpose of taking the boys and girls off the streets. The police report is emphatic on this point, and testifies that the streets are much quieter whilst the Rendezvous is open. The young people are not now a nuisance to those who pass through the town, though people living near the Hall have had cause to complain of noise around them. There is no doubt that the Rendezvous is wanted. On the opening night of the second year the crowd began to gather half an hour before opening time and there has never been any difficulty in filling the Hall. In addition, there is evidence that direct good has been done in a few cases. One particular boy, after acting as a gang leader one year, became a reformed character the next. Exactly how far the change is due to the influence of the Rendezvous cannot of course be gauged, but there is reason for believing that the stewards have had an influence for good, especially since some of the boys made the amazing discovery that the stewards and ladies actually come down to the Hall on Sunday evenings without being paid for their services!

About 20 stewards have sufficed for keeping in order the large crowd that assemble in the Hall, and it says much for their tact and bearing that no serious disturbances have occurred, especially as the police have stated that they would very much like to put their hands on some of the characters seen in the Hall! Mr. Zuppinger decided that nothing in the way of "policing" should enter into the stewards' methods, and that the stewards, as far as possible, should get into contact with the boys and girls. This has been done to a certain extent, and a discussion between a steward and one of the boys always draws an interested audience. Some of the most unlikely-looking characters have been drawn to discuss all sorts of topics. There is considerable scope for direct good to be done in this way. Toc H are undertaking the stewarding arrangements, calling on kindred organisations for help.

So far we have explored the beginnings of the movement to do something for youth on Sunday evenings. What are the future prospects of the scheme? In one Hall regularly during the winter we have 1,500 lads and lassies of the type that really need an uplifting influence and of an age when such an influence would make a real mark. At present, although the Rendezvous is run for them, they do not in the least feel that it belongs to them. Nor has it, so far as we can tell, any influence on what they do during the other evenings of the week. But we are anxious that the movement should go on. We must create a mutual interest between the stewards and the boys and girls, so that we can endeavour with some idea of success to do something for them on week-days and during the summer, when the Baths Hall is required for its more legitimate uses. Let all parties interested in the venture meet and try to make some suggestion for further developments.* Mr. Zuppinger has the vision of a Settlement in Croydon like those in the poorer districts of London. Perhaps this is a long way off as yet, but it is a goal to be worked for and is worth thinking about."

* A step in this direction is being taken by Croydon Toc H, who are shortly opening a Club for boys over 15, and hope to obtain recruits from the Baths Hall.

HELPING THE DISTRESSED MINERS

IT is probable that most Branches and Groups of Toc H are by now lending a hand in the relief of miners and their families in distress in the English or Welsh Coalfields, either in co-operation with local effort or in some form of work of their own.

Members will have read in the daily Press recently that in order to co-ordinate the work for the Coalfields Distress and particularly the distributing of the Lord Mayor's Fund, a Central Executive has been set up consisting of representatives of the Lord Mayor's Fund and all voluntary organisations. The six representatives of the organisation are elected by a standing committee of voluntary organisations on which Toc H has been invited to be represented. Major Higgon, our Area Secretary for South Wales, was instrumental in getting the Welsh Branches and Groups of Toc H to receive clothing from Toc H Branches in England and to distribute them in the distressed areas. A great deal of very valuable assistance has been given by English Branches and Groups as soon as this started.

It is now felt that some of the English Branches and Groups might prefer to combine with other local efforts or to extend their collections to other areas besides South Wales. There are three courses open to them, to send collections as heretofore to Branches and Groups of Toc H in South Wales; or to send them to the Central Depot of the Lord Mayor's Fund at Cardiff or Newcastle; or, if a Central Depot in their own town has been established, to combine and send them there. Providing consignments are of the minimum weight of 1 cwt. and the special form of declaration provided by the Railway Company is signed, parcels of clothing and food *may be sent by rail at half rate*. All money contributions pooled through the Lord Mayor's Fund are eligible for the £1 for £1 Government grant.

It is known that in some instances Branches and Groups are dealing direct with distressed villages, and in order to facilitate the fair distribution of relief among the many villages in need, the General Secretary of Toc H would like to have information as soon as possible as to what Branches and Groups are actually doing. There is an obvious attraction—and from the point of view of personal service a great advantage—in the plan of a locality or a Toc H unit “adopting” a particular distressed village. A good instance of this is quoted below. The disadvantage and danger of this kind of “adoption” (as has already been seen in actual cases) is that one village may receive help from one or several places or organisations, while its neighbour, in need just as great, is passed over. Whether a Branch or Group takes part in an “adoption” scheme or not, it is certain that a great deal is gained if members can manage to see the conditions on the spot with a view to close personal help. We should like, therefore, to appeal to Toc H members, whether belonging to a Branch or Group or on the General List, if they have any leisure time, to try and visit the distressed areas. There is a tremendous demand both in South Wales and Durham Coalfields and elsewhere for people to go and spend some time in the villages assisting in local work. In many of the villages there is not a single person to whom anyone can go to for advice, sympathy or any other kind of help. Should anyone be able to serve in this way, the General Secretary would be glad to advise them how to set about it.

A WORKING EXAMPLE.

The way in which a Toc H unit can set about this work is best seen from an actual instance. It shows, first, how Toc H can help in local organisation, and, secondly, how personal contact can be made. The Enfield Branch at their committee meeting on December 3 decided that something active ought to be done in their town at once to relieve the distress in South Wales. Their Padre offered to get in touch with the relief fund in South Wales and ask them to suggest villages which might be adopted. After the annual meeting on December 6, the members went to their usual meeting-place and discussed the question of the villages which had been

suggested and decided that they would adopt Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi. After this meeting they got in touch with the President of the local Rotary Club and arranged that a deputation should proceed at once to the area to gather information and find out the most pressing needs. The following day the Enfield Padre got in touch with the local Council and persuaded them also to send a representative with the deputation. The Padre then got in touch with the Rural Dean of the district; between them they drew up a letter for circulation to all the churches, chapels, religious bodies and all organisations which could help in a united effort. The deputation left Enfield late on the Saturday night and travelled through the night to Cardiff, where they met the ex-Lord Mayor of Cardiff and arranged a method of working in co-operation with the Lord Mayor's Fund. They then proceeded to the adopted villages and met the local M.P., local councillors, and other influential local people. A committee was formed for the distribution of relief and the deputation spent another night travelling home. They found their Padre had been very busy while they had been away, and had more or less persuaded every organisation to assist the local fund. The movement in Enfield became a real united effort of the townspeople, and Toc H became a small part of a tremendous scheme. Their representatives were of course appointed on the local distress fund committee, but Toc H reverted to their real job, which was to do the work. They organised the collection of clothing, and, with the L.W.H., the sorting and packing of it. On December 21, two four-ton lorries left Enfield for the adopted villages. They were manned by ordinary members of the Branch and were filled to overflowing with food and clothing. This was a real Toc H job, and the journey there and back involved some hardship, as they had to spend one night sleeping in their lorries by the roadside. They did not arrive back in Enfield until early on Christmas morning, having spent most of that night on the road so as to be home in time for Christmas. By this time the fund had grown considerably and had reached about £1,000, and it was possible to send enough money to the villages before Christmas to ensure that all families would be certain of a Christmas dinner. The money is distributed in the form of vouchers which can be used with the local tradespeople, and therefore the whole of the community in the district benefits by the distribution. The next move, other than the routine work of collecting clothing and money, was to organise a children's party, and at this party every child in the Welsh villages received a gift of a toy which was sent personally by the children of Enfield. Some of the members were able to go and help with the party which was given to 1,200 children, the members driving another lorry containing the toys. The work of the local L.W.H. in this direction was enormous. At the party itself, Cardiff Toc H and L.W.H. rendered splendid service, and the whole thing was a great success. By this time the fund had grown to about £1,700, and it was decided to distribute relief up to £100 per month. Clothing to the extent of about 18 tons has now been sent and there is still a lot more to go. The local boys' organisations have worked tremendously hard, so that every house in the district has been called on for clothing, but the task is by no means complete. It must be added that other Groups in the same London District are pulling their weight so far as these poor miners are concerned. Palmer's Green are very busy at work collecting clothing and money and have been able to render service in co-operation with other local organisations. New Barnet have been able to send a lot of clothing to another village. Their number of members is small but they have worked tremendously hard collecting clothing and boots, and it is mainly because of what the local Toc H Branch has done that the people of New Barnet have awakened to the needs of South Wales.

It is, of course, realised that these instances may be paralleled in Toc H in many parts of the country, but at present Headquarters has very incomplete information as to what is being done.

THE TRANSFERRED MINERS.

Another opportunity of personal service is opened to our members in the case of miners or their families being transferred by the Government from the distressed areas to other districts. This policy of transference has raised political and economic issues with which Toc H has no

concern, though its individual members may, and doubtless do, hold varying opinions about it. Our plain duty is that laid down in the First Point of the Toc H "Compass"—"to be responsible for the welcome and well-being of those commended to our friendship."

Country Branches and Groups have been asked to try to arrange for a miner's family to be settled in their own locality. Burwash Group, for instance, has already taken a cottage and is arranging to have a family moved there. The Lord Mayor's Fund makes a grant in such cases towards the removal expenses.

In May, 1928, Toc H was approached by the Ministry of Labour with a view to some help being given in assisting with the work of placing boys from the distressed areas in Wales in employment in London and the provinces. These boys, with perhaps a few exceptions, had no relatives or friends they could go to; they were in unfamiliar surroundings and had nothing but sight-seeing with which to occupy their spare time. It was felt that they needed facilities for recreation and opportunities of meeting others.

The first list of boys received from the Ministry of Labour contained 40 names, which were distributed between the Branches and Groups of Toc H in the districts where they had been placed. The total number of names received to date runs to over 300. As far as cases in London are concerned, these names have been distributed among 29 Branches and Groups of Toc H in the London Federation, out of a total of 70.

Of the class of employment in which the boys have been placed, 75 per cent. were in Hotels, Boarding Houses, Restaurants, etc., the remaining 25 per cent. were in private service or trades of a very varied character. A large percentage of the jobs were "living in" jobs, and it has been in these cases that the greatest difficulty has been experienced by members of Toc H in getting in touch with the boys.

In some cases the intrusion of a strange person taking any interest in the boys has been resented, but where the employer has had some knowledge of Toc H, and what it is trying to do, the difficulty has been surmounted. The reports which have been received from time to time, show that the boys appreciate the fact that there is someone they can go to when they need advice. In some cases the boys are boarded out in recognised Hostels which cater for boys, where recreational interests are all that could be desired, and in these, Toc H has made no attempt to overlap the work already being done. On the other side, there was a case just outside the London area, where three boys were taken from undesirable lodgings and placed elsewhere.

The work is proceeding satisfactorily on the whole, but it must not for a moment be supposed that Toc H London has been able to tackle effectively all the boys commended to them. In the case of boys in Hotels, etc., where their "time off" is in the morning or afternoon, having to be on duty in the evenings, the difficulty is to get in touch with the boy, as the average Toc H member is not in a position to devote any time to this work during his hours of business. A letter to the boy, in these circumstances, informs him where advice can be found if needed. With close co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and the help of those members who are interested in this particular form of service, it is hoped that not only the boys, but their parents in Wales, will realise that people in London are alive to their responsibilities.

* * * * *

Information from Branches and Groups all over the country as to work they have undertaken in connection with the distressed people of the coalfields—and especially practical suggestions, details of actual difficulties, successes and failures—will be most gladly received by the General Secretary. Such reports may help us to put our heads together and do more concerted and effective work, however modest the scale of it may be, in the alleviation of a great national tragedy. A fine example of personal sympathy and first-hand study of the problem and the imperative call to lend a hand has been given to us one and all by a Toc H member, the Prince of Wales.

THE SCHOOLS SERVICE BUREAU OF TOC H

Three Schools Tours—1. *Manchester*

A TWO days' tour was organised from North-Western Headquarters, in which boys from Giggleswick, Ellesmere, Rossall, Worksop, Rydal and Sedburgh took part. In all there were fifteen boys and two masters who arrived and braved the fog in Manchester early on Wednesday morning, January 9. The party was met by a yellow charabanc in the centre of the City and proceeded forthwith to the Manchester Ship Canal Co. Docks where three hours were spent inspecting the docks both from *terra firma* and also from the Canal itself in a tug. After lunch at Mark IV the party proceeded to the *Manchester Evening News* printing works, and saw a newspaper printed from the moment of receiving a message from the Press Association to its being handed to the newsboy in the street. After dinner a very jolly evening was spent at the Ancoats Lads' Club, on the way to which the party was taken through one of the biggest overcrowded areas in Manchester.

On Thursday morning the Jackson Street Spinning Company was visited and the party was conducted round the mill in parties of four. In the afternoon two crowded hours were spent inspecting the Works of Messrs. Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Company, Trafford Park, and everybody was amazed by the efficiency of the organisation which they beheld there. The tour concluded at a Guest-night at Mark IV which all the party seemed to enjoy. To most of them it was their first experience of Toc H and they joined wholeheartedly in the spirit of the Guest-night, even at one stage contributing a song.

Throughout the whole tour every opportunity was taken of giving the boys an insight into the conditions under which men work and the kind of wages they are paid for doing that work. All the meals were provided in Mark IV, and although this meant a little extra trouble because of extra journeys the charabanc was compelled to make, a chance was given for the party to feel the atmosphere of a Mark. The cost of the tour worked out at about 10s. per person. That the cost was so little is in part due to the Wardens of both Houses who co-operated splendidly.

A. L.

2. *Birmingham*

A tour by a party of five senior boys from Bromsgrove School, four from Repton and four from Trent College to see something of the various industrial and social activities in Birmingham was arranged by Padre Reeves in conjunction with the Birmingham District Committee, and took place on January 10 and 11. Mark VI was the H.Q. for the tour, four or five of the visitors sleeping there and the remainder coming each day from their homes.

A varied programme was arranged, the itinerary including on the Thursday morning a visit to the Birmingham Public Libraries and the Shakespeare Library, and in the afternoon the Birmingham works of the Dunlop Rubber Co. to see the manufacture of tyres and tubes and golf and tennis balls. In the evening the party were the guests of the Birmingham Boys and Girls' Union to dinner at their H.Q. at Cathedral House, Newhall Street (the original Mark VI) preparatory to a visit to some boys' clubs to see how the well-organised clubs in Birmingham are being run and the good work which is being done there. Talks were arranged at the Birmingham Library, where the Chief Librarian explained his treasures, and at Fort Dunlop where, after tea, Mr. R. H. Cunningham, the Works Secretary, gave a brief but comprehensive account of the Joint Factory Council, as organised at Fort Dunlop and of the many Social and Benevolent schemes which are arranged by the company or the employers with a view to getting the best conditions of life for all concerned.

On the Friday morning, a visit was paid to the B.S.A. works, where the party were shown the manufacture of guns, etc., and of motor-cycles, while in the afternoon they went round an Elementary School in Aston, one of the real slum areas of Birmingham. The methods and enthusiasm observed there were a revelation to all, and in the things seen, heard, or read, there was much that was humorous, and, in some instances, pathetic. This proved to be the most popular item of the whole tour, as witness a quotation from a letter of appreciation from one of the Trent boys:—"Although the visit to the Shakespeare Library and the visit to Fort Dunlop were both topping, to my mind the cream of the tour was the visit to Elkington Road School. It was all so new to me and it was fascinating fun going all through the school and, as it were, living ten years in one hour. The headmaster attracted me immediately, he was so dead keen on his school. I should imagine that few such schools can boast an Old Boys' Club and few such schools such an inspiring headmaster."

In the evening, after supper at Mark VI, the party attended a Branch Guest-night. Padre Reeves explained the Ceremony of Light, before taking it, and, after the usual business of a Branch Guest-night, he spoke on the S.S.B. and the objects of the tour, and also on Toc H and its ideals. He was followed by Chris. Lane, a foundation member, who told of the summer and autumn of 1915 in and around Pop. and Sanctuary Wood—a thrilling but ghastly tale of the first liquid fire attack, and of how Gilbert Talbot lost his life. Johnson, of Bromsgrove School, told of the "Pathfinder Club" there; this is concerned with the development of Fairmindedness, and of a realisation of social conditions as they exist in such spheres as the slums, and foreign countries. The members also do service at a Boys' Club in the town. He also gave some impressions of the tour, and amused the meeting with details of one of Padre Reeve's "escapades"—it is, apparently, a good job that he was so well "chaperoned." The Mark VI "Jobbie" (D. Milne) spoke on Service, and the Pilot (C. Darke) also said a few words, emphasising the Lightheartedness and Serious Mindedness of Toc H by being in an exceptionally humorous mood. The Guest-night closed with family prayers, followed by tea and buns, and a sing-song, together with general liveliness. The whole tour was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and provided the fellows with a real insight into social and industrial conditions, the existence of which has scarcely been dreamt of by some.

3. *London*

Twelve representatives of Wellington and seven of Malvern, including three masters, took part in a London tour from January 7 to 9. The tour began with a Guest-night at the Brothers' House, where those not living in London were put up. Beresford Ingram talked on the difficulties in the way of the young Londoner continuing his education, and the great organised effort to give him a better preparation for life. In particular he spoke of Day Technical Schools and of part-time education.

Tuesday morning was spent in the Albert and Victoria Docks, and the afternoon at the Beaufoy Institute, Lambeth, where the party saw a technical school in operation, heard Dr. Ritchie Scott expound the spirit of the place and realised for themselves some of the things B.I. had talked about. In the evening the party divided, the Wellingtonians finding their way to the school mission in Walworth, where they spent a joyous evening in the clubs, and the Malvernians departing similarly to their mission at the Dockland Settlement.

Wednesday morning was voted easily the best part of the tour. Father Jellicoe of the St. Pancras House Improvement Society showed us his extraordinarily interesting housing film and afterwards we went with him round the district and saw some of the worst houses and the two methods of rebuilding and reconditioning in progress. The most impressive part of the

whole thing was the abundant evidence of the growth of a new spirit between landlord and tenant which was refreshing to witness. There followed a visit to All Hallows, where to our great joy Tubby appeared to welcome us and to expound his heretical antiquarian theories about the recent discoveries in the church. Thence the party were whisked off to see two great departments of the G.P.O. in operation, the Central Telegraph Office and the rush hour work of sorting. Unfortunately several members of the party got lost among the telegraph instruments and missed both their tea and the final part of the afternoon's visit.

That the visit was enjoyed there was abundant evidence. That it gave those who came a new understanding of Toc H and some of the places where the Toc H spirit can get to work, may perhaps be seen from a letter from one of the tourists quoted by Scott at the Conference. Toc H said the writer was not nearly enough known. "We are lucky to get a man to come down every year and tell us all about it, but it is not really nearly enough; one has got to go and see with one's own eyes and hear with one's own ears what it is all about."

The Schools Conference

The Annual Schools Conference took place at Merchant Taylors School on Monday, January 14, 1929, and was attended by 35 school correspondents and S.S.B. representatives. Major General Sir A. SILLEM took the chair.

MR. S. S. G. LEESON, Headmaster of Merchant Taylors School, welcomed the Conference. The S.S.B., he said, was a valuable ally to the schools in informing the boy of the kind of world he lives in, and keeping alive the spirit of social service.

H. A. SECRETAN, Hon. Secretary, reported that the year had been one of slow but steady progress. Twenty-nine new schools had joined, 154 S.S.B. members had been registered apart from enquiries and those passed direct to Toc H itself. The local system of working had developed considerably and brought in many secondary schools. Both the Incorporated Association of Headmasters and the Committee of the Headmasters Conference had given their approval to the S.S.B. and Barkis and himself had been invited to the "Dons and Beaks" Conference at Charterhouse which had proved most useful in making new contacts. Closer touch had been established with School Missions and with the National Association of Boys' Clubs. The successful working of the S.S.B. depended all through on personal relationships, at the school where the school correspondent must prepare the ground and after school where the S.S.B. representative must get to know the boys with whom he deals. The much wider knowledge of the S.S.B. inside Toc H was helping to strengthen the work.

C. O. GEORGE (Ipswich) gave a practical talk on the methods to be followed by the S.S.B. representative in dealing with local schools. He emphasised the importance of the representative spending much time at the school, and getting to know individuals in their last term.

ARTHUR LODGE (North-Western Area) described the progress made with secondary schools in his area. He urged the value of visits by a few boys at a time to Guest-nights.

R. C. GRANT (General Secretary of Toc H) suggested that something might be done to interest parents in the S.S.B.'s activities.

H. S. SCOTT (Wellington) described the recent school tour and emphasised the value to boys of seeing with their own eyes what social and industrial conditions are like.

R. C. THOMPSON (Oxford) described the method of working the S.S.B. in Oxford. The paucity of jobs which undergraduates could, and having regard to their work, should do was a difficulty. The main thing was to keep them in touch, pass them on to Branches near their homes, and stress the importance of staffing the University Settlements in the Areas.

G. V. CAREY (Cambridge) stressed the importance of school correspondents making sure that all recommended boys at least knew what the S.S.B. stood for.

After lunch BASIL PRICE (late of Toc H Calcutta) spoke of the difficulties to be faced by the young fellow going out to a post overseas, particularly in the tropics. He pointed out the paramount importance in the present critical stage of India's history of the character and personal conduct of British residents. He spoke from personal knowledge of the loneliness, the slackening of *morale* which climate is apt to induce, the insidiousness of the temptation to accept a lowering of the moral standard, and showed how the backing of Toc H certainly in the big centres and even in the isolated tea gardens can give to such men the assurance that comes of knowing they are not fighting a lone battle. He referred to Ludo's pioneer work and dealt practically with the means by which boys going out could be shown their way into the family circle.

TUBBY followed this up by detailing the arrangements for carrying on "Ludo's" work by J. H. Lindsay for India and E. B. Alexander and Walter Shakespeare for Ceylon. He gave some unsparing particulars of the life of the young newcomer to Buenos Aires, and told how Toc H was setting to work to meet his need. No school he claimed could hope to do for its old boys overseas what Toc H was now ready and able to do almost the world over. No school, however great, could afford to withhold from its boys such opportunities. He urged that to think of Toc H in terms of service only was to ignore its essence. Service and fellowship sprang equally from the Toc H outlook on every side of life. Its business at home and abroad was to be no less than a *paidagogos es Christon* (a "pedagogue"—leader of boys—into Christ).

BARCLAY BARON spoke of the forthcoming schools tour in Germany. He showed how it arose as a natural sequel to the visit of German schoolboys here last summer, explained its outlines and hoped that it would be the first of many such experiments designed to break down the barriers of ignorance, and to promote the Toc H attitude of fellowship and understanding between one country and another.

TUBBY drew attention to the prospective tour to Albert and the Somme next August and to next year's Pilgrimage to Ober-Ammergau and hoped that the schools would be strongly represented at both. (See January JOURNAL.)

After some further discussion as to the relative importance of service and fellowship in the approach to boys leaving school, R. F. MILLARD (Secretary of the National Association of Boys' Clubs) spoke of the possibilities of school missions, if regarded as an integral part of the school, and not merely as work carried on in the name of the school, in creating a bridge of understanding. He urged that the time had come when clubs of this kind, and the many other kinds of boys' clubs, now in being and springing up, should come together and cement their work, an effort in which the National Association was always ready to assist.

The Conference broke up at 4.30.

"YOUNG VISITERS" TO "TOCHAGE"

TYNESIDE Padres invaded Mark XVIII the other day, and held a meeting. It was a sober meeting, I fear. We discussed pastoral methods, District Committees and, of course, finance. Then we had lunch together, and felt rather better, but the best wine was kept until the last. Assuming the innocent expression of a well-trained anarchist about to throw a bomb, the Padre from Stanley produced a bundle of the most precious documents it has been my joy to read since I joined Toc H. It was obvious to all who read them that they provided just the tonic necessary to save our Movement from the medieval sin of *acedia*, and to sweeten the high-brow pages of the JOURNAL. Here they are then—a collection of essays on "*What I think of Toc H*," by elementary schoolboys, who proudly claim membership of the Toc H Boys' Club at Stanley. The age of the authors is round about twelve years, that joyous age of keen eyes and sensible hero worship.

For the benefit of South Countrymen, and other foreign folk, it may be well to explain that Stanley is an important township in the North Durham Coalfield. Pat Leonard gave the first news of Toc H there in a no less exciting time than that of the general strike, and after persistent siege by other zealous members, the Toc H flag now flies proudly over one of the highest buildings in the town. And now for the banquet!

"Toc H," says Master Edward, "was first started at Talbot House. This house was very near the front fighting line in the Great War. . . . Above the door was an inscription which ran something like this, 'Ye who enter abandon all rank and authority.' This notice was obeyed and inside Colonels used to crack jokes with privates. This marked the beginning of a great cause. . . . The aims of this great club are to teach the people to be like our brothers who died in the War, to help our fellowmen and not be selfish. Friendship to our brothers is another aim, and to believe in the one and only true God who gave his Son to be crucified to save us. Altogether, it looks as if this great and honourable club will prosper in the near future."

Master Robert emphasises the religious aspect, "Of what I have seen and heard of Toc H I think it is a real good religion. It is a religion of unselfishness. The members of Toc H try to help other people as much as they can and they come every Wednesday to try and amuse us where they could be enjoying themselves somewhere else."

But Master James has other thoughts about the religious character of the Movement, "I think Toc H is not very religious in the sense that we do not keep a religious fervour in the things we do. Toc H meetings for lads are looked forward to by all members, for fun and enjoyment are obtained there. Although a portion of religion is mixed in the doings and acts of the boys, it goes by nearly unnoticed. . . . I wish Toc H may thrive and be a leading society of the day."

Moral philosophers will note that Master William is careful not to confuse religion and ethics, like so many older people, "Besides being a help to people in distress," he says, "Toc H is also a religious body seeking men who sin against Jesus and there fellow men. Many people are thankful that there is such a thing in existence as Toc H. Many thanks to the Prince of Wales."

Reference is made by Master John to the camp provided for a party of the Stanley boys by the members of Kirkby Stephen. "I can speak from experience as to the good fellowship that reigns between Toc H members. I had a treat of ten days through the Toc H Association at Kirkby Stephen. . . . I also say that the meetings are full of Life and Light. . . . For I think it is a foundation of Christianity and that Christianity is a foundation of true fellowship."

Beginning with a description of the Newcastle Mark as a "big massive building," Master Alfred emphasises the watchword "To Conquer Hate." "The first four letters of this word, *tochage*, are the most outstanding. These four letters have a meaning, and their meaning is, 'To Conquer Hate.' TO stands for 'to' and CH stand for Conquer Hate. To Conquer Hate is a very good rule for boys and young men. . . . If there had been no war, there would never have been a Tochage Club. It was started in memory of the men who fell in the War. Tochage is an every man's club, though he be wealthy or poor, he is thought no better than anyone else, but he must follow the rule TO CONQUER HATE. There are also Tochage clubs for boys, and they still have to follow the rule, and they have to be the coming Tochage men. There are also women's clubs. Now I will close talking about Tochage, but we all have to remember that it is a true and faithful club."

It is no doubt obvious to all that, since Toc H has so much thought for the Rising Generation, it is high time we knew more of the rising generation's thought of Toc H. Such information is rarely to be obtained—and still more rarely in written form—for, although many elders are duly conscious of their mission to enlighten their juniors, the juniors are not yet conscious of their mission to improve their seniors. Our debt, therefore, to these young scribes of Stanley is very considerable.

R. H. L. S.

THE FAIR FOLK AND TOC H

In the November JOURNAL Crewkerne Group reported that they had made friends with the hard-worked caravan folk who run the "shows" at the local annual fair; Gloucester soon after did the same. And now another West Country Branch reports on this new and worth-while Toc H job. Others please note!

WHILE the iron is hot, Yeovil strikes with its experiences of running a Talbot House. Padre Bill Maddock asked us "what abaht it?" and, of course, what could one do? A small committee went into the matter and, after great efforts, numerous utensils and various types of furniture were scrounged in the Branch Staff car—a 2 h.p. Tan Sad. A marquee was very kindly lent by a local hotel proprietor—a case of influence at the Bar—and other folk lent us anything we wanted. O.K. Smith of Bristol was G.S.O.I., and the blokes buckled to in fine style. Up went the marquee on November 12, and then, with stores aboard, everything in the garden seemed lovely. Yet we had not reckoned with the gentle zephyrs which blew that week. On the Wednesday the marquee mistook herself for the Graf Zeppelin—but she went down instead of up. Still up she went again, and on the Thursday afternoon many volunteers, strolling round to do their bit at making the world-famed Yeovil tea and coffee, found nothing but a bare spot—marquee *non est*. The Fair was only just beginning and everything seemed to be against the effort. Skirmishers were sent out and an empty garage near by annexed. So we carried on—day in and night out till 2 a.m., and on the Saturday night there was an all-night sitting, coffee and tea, buns and door-step sandwiches being served to the men as they seized a moment in between their activities. Sunday saw the end, with a concert and a short service in the evening. Members of the British Legion gave of their talent and the atmosphere was one of happiness.

Was it worth while? Ask the Yeovil blokes, and they will give an emphatic "Yes." It is a great work—a job well worth doing—a job which brings to Fair Folk and Toc H'ers alike a great feeling of comradeship. The Fair Folk now realise there are men out to make their lives brighter than they have been hitherto. One could give many yarns of little incidents which took place. Here are two:—After the move to the garage, a regular tea-hunter rolled in and said to one member "What I like about you Toc H fellows is that you can't be beaten." This is not blowing a trumpet—far from it. It just shows how these men watch and note all that is done. If the idea is to live—and, please God, it will—the pioneers have a great duty to perform. No setback must hinder them from making their show go at full swing. If they allow it to do so, they are no true Toc H'ers.

The next incident took place on the Monday. Two or three blokes were "swabbing the decks" when a grey-haired man of 53 strolled in and thanked the Branch for what they had done for the men. No fuss, no special speech—just a heartfelt word of thanks which meant more than words can tell. The job was worth it all. What of the blokes who ran it? We knew one another as we had not done before. There was 100 per cent. keenness; sacrifice of time and energy was willingly given and all felt the better for it.

Let us wind up with one more incident. One Yeovilian sat talking to one of the men—both young, one grimy, the other togged up. It was palship complete. The man gradually broke down his reserve and told his story, the other listening. In the middle of the talk, the man offered half his grub to the Toc H member, though it was a hard-earned meal and he only got 4s. a week. That young fellow, surely, was getting the Toc H spirit—he was realising what it was to have a friend at last because he was a wanderer. As he was leaving he was told to visit Padre Bill at Bristol. A letter was sent to prepare the way. Maybe he will call, maybe not, but, for all that, he will now realise that in Toc H he has friends if he wants them.

"Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto Me."

JACKO.

“ FOLLOW THE GLEAM ”

IN the January JOURNAL (p. 5) we gave a preliminary notice of the Birthday Festival of Toc H Australia to be held in May, and on their behalf issued a general invitation to all members in the world to be present. Now comes this printed letter, addressed boldly to “ Toc H, The World—To all Branches and Groups around the Globe.” which we give *in extenso* :—

G.P.O. Box E202, Perth, Western Australia.

1. *Preliminary* : From the 13th to 18th May, 1929, the third Australian Birthday Festival will be held in Perth, Western Australia. The Federal Council of Australia has left the arrangements of this Festival to the State. The two chief events will be—(a) Thanksgiving Service and Lighting of the New Lamps for Australia on Tuesday, the 14th May; and (b) A Family Guest-night on the following evening, Wednesday.

2. *Objective* : It is the desire of Toc H Australia that from the Tuesday to the Wednesday the ceremony of Light should be held in successive stages the world around, that Toc H should make a world gesture of Remembrance.

3. *Execution* : Toc H Australia feels sure that the objective is worth while, and that all Branches and Groups throughout the world will endeavour to participate in this chain of Remembrance and Light. This is how it is proposed to work the idea out :—

(a) Grand Light will be held at the Thanksgiving Service on the Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. *This will be taken as the zero point, and the chain will move with the sun, westwards.*

(b) Going West from Perth, the time in each country up to and including the Branches and Groups in U.S.A., is slower than Perth time—the further West, the greater difference in time.

(c) All Branches and Groups, then, up to and including the Branches and Groups in U.S.A. are asked to hold a meeting and the ceremony of Light at 8.30 p.m. (their own time) on Tuesday, May 14th.

(d) After U.S.A. the time is fast, so that Branches and Groups in New Zealand and the Eastern States of Australia will, and are asked, to carry on the chain and hold their meeting and ceremony of Light on Wednesday, the 15th May, at 8.30 p.m., their own time.

(e) Thus the last country in point of time to hold the ceremony of Light will be South Australia, on the Wednesday. From there the chain will be complete when the ceremony of Light is held at Perth on Wednesday at 8.30 p.m. at the Guest-night.

4. *Result* : Thus in 24 hours a chain of Light and Remembrance will have girdled the world. If that night one could look on from off the Globe, then he would see each country in turn lighting a beacon, passing on the message of Remembrance and Brotherly Love.

It is sincerely hoped that every Branch and Group in each country will consider the idea and fall in with it. It is realised that it may mean the changing of a meeting night, but it is hoped that this will readily be done, to give effect to the idea which has been formulated. It is hoped that where this world circular is sent to a Headquarters Secretary or District Secretary or Registrar, he will promulgate it for the units in his administration. We will be very grateful if some notification can be given of the acceptance of the idea which has been set forth, and we sincerely trust that it may be faithfully and wholeheartedly accomplished.

For and on behalf of the Festival Committee,

D. M. CLELAND,

Hon. General Secretary.

1st December, 1928.

(Is there any doubt that, in response to Australia's imaginative suggestion, hundreds of Lamps and Rushlights will shine at home on May 14? And why shouldn't every Branch and Group which decides to take part write and tell Don Cleland so—with a Birthday greeting?—ED.)

A MIXED MAIL FROM OVERSEAS

Pat Leonard in the United States

HERE is another of Pat's letters to his old team of members in Manchester. When a copy comes in the Editor's way he never has any compunction in publishing it in the JOURNAL, for surely the whole family of Toc H will be glad to share in what is a delight to one of its parts.

*Toc H Headquarters, 25, Broadway,
New York City.*

December 14, 1928.

MY DEARS—

Toc H America has had its first Birthday Festival and has the Kruschen feeling in consequence. We decided, since we could not be present in Westminster Abbey, Albert Hall and All Hallows, that we'd have an overflow meeting, as it were, in Baltimore, and reproduce as nearly as we could the Festival spirit and fellowship of the great Family Reunion. We chose Baltimore since the Group there was long overdue for its Rushlight, and we thought that a gathering of the clans would not only confirm its faith, but that if we could not light new Lamps, we would at least kindle into flame a new Rushlight. See us then on Saturday, December 8, arriving in Baltimore in heavy winter coats powdered with snow and blowing on our fingers. From North and South we came by train and road, and each little knot of men carrying those odd-shaped parcels that hide from the public eyes and dust the Banners and Rushlights of far-flung Groups.

At 5 p.m. we met for our thanksgiving in the fine old Presbyterian Church, where Dr. Hodge is Minister, and Gus Varian the Jobmaster sings in the Choir. At Dr. Hodge's request I wore my cassock and surplice, so that as we stood side by side in his big pulpit, we not only represented the ideal advertisement for "Black and White," but I hope, still more, the unity that binds all the Christian denominations into the one compelling fellow-service of their Lord and Master. A little *contretemps* occurred after Dr. Hodge had given the word of counsel and good cheer, and I began Tubby's Litany "On the Road Home" out of *The Smoking Furnace and the Burning Lamp*; the Verger unfortunately mistook the opening words "Out of the Night, out of the darkness" for an order "Out with the light," and in consequence plunged the Church in darkness. Later we had the Ceremony of Light and initiated the pivotal man of the Baltimore Group.

After a very cheery meal together in the large Y.M.C.A. Cafeteria we adjourned to a neighbouring hall for the Festival Guest-night. By this time about a hundred members had collected, for snow had delayed some, and others had come from Boston and the far north; and with them came a hundred and fifty of their friends and general public. Gus Varian, as song leader created the proper atmosphere of happy unrestraint; then followed Louis Washburn, as Chairman of the Executive, who read the cables and Birthday messages received from far and near; then came Pat with a long-winded oration during which the procession of delegates formed up outside. When all was ready we rose to our feet, and sang the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* as the procession of Lights and Banners entered, led in by the double Cross and the Stars and Stripes. Following Birthday procedure we massed on the platform, and as the last notes of the *Battle Hymn* died away, the lights went out, and a knock was heard on the outer door of the Hall—all heads were turned expectantly as the door opened, and a little body of men entered carrying a little Rushlight—the only light in that large Hall with its vaulted roof and fine oak panelling. Out of the darkness came a challenge "Who comes?" Then followed a colloquy, written by Pryor Grant, between the unseen voice on the platform representing the Baltimore Group and the spokesman of the Rushlight Party, representing the Guards of the Lamp. Across the length of the Hall came question and answer.

Voice from platform : "Who comes?"

Guards of the Light : "Bearers of Light, but not our own."

Voice : "Whence comes it?"

Answer : "From falling hands of those before us, who in life's living found its joy and fed its flame."

Voice : "To whom may it be entrusted?"

Answer : "To any who will maintain it in reverent fealty."

Voice : "We welcome you its bearers."

The spot of light moved slowly to the tramp of feet, up the aisle of the darkened Hall, mounted the platform and halted.

Guards of the Light : "In answer to your petition, the Family of Toc H greets you, and with this sign grants you trial of its life and service. Maintain it in all good faith and brotherly conduct, in service and welcome to every man, in love and honour on the high road of life's adventure. See to it that nothing keeps this light from shining out clearly in the sight of all men, that they may see the beauty of the things you do, and learn to think better of their Father God, because they have met you."

Baltimore Spokesman : "In the name of the Brothers present and of many more yet to be so named, I receive this symbol of Toc H. Of God we ask courage and understanding and of the Family of Toc H the loyalty of a common cause."

Guards : "The Lord be with you."

Baltimore : "And with thy spirit."

One by one the other Rushlights and the Washington Lamp were lit for the Ceremony of Light and for the initiation of six more of Baltimore's foundation members. Then came a speech from Einar Christensen, the Chairman of the newly commissioned Group, in which he spoke brave words of how with God's help that tiny flame should grow, until all Baltimore should be the sweeter, the happier and the healthier for its friendly rays. Then *Rogerum* and, in vivid contrast to its rollicking lilt, the quiet almost mystical voice of Pryor Grant in the once more darkened hall, leading us from the noise and bustle of the *pavé* road, through the curtains of the Sanctuary, into the Holy of Holies to the ineffable Light of Light Himself, where for a space we found our oneness with the cloud of witnesses and with our brothers across the seas.

Next morning we had our corporate communion in Dr. Lovett's Church—a new-found friend and ally, and ate our noisy breakfast in a near-by restaurant. That disposed of, the camera fiends had an innings as we stood and shivered on the frozen pavement. Then the road home claimed some, while others supported me while I tried to explain Toc H in Dr. Lovett's crowded Church. By one o'clock we were all homeward bound, and America's first birthday Festival was a thing of the past, but an inspiration for the present, and an abiding memory for the future.

My love to you all as ever,

PAT.

The "Lone Toc-aitcher" in Siam

Next, there is a letter written to Pat Leonard by a former Lancashire member, lately in Australia and now in Siam. Pat himself sends a copy from U.S.A. to the Editor, suggesting that "there may be bits of it which would not be out of place in the JOURNAL." But it seems well worth while to print nearly all of it, giving as it does a home member's frank impressions of Toc H Australia on first acquaintance, some amusing evidence of the fact noticed by so many of our members who travel that one is never really "safe from" Toc H nowadays in any habitable part of the world, and then his own satisfaction in an active, open-air day's work in an Eastern country—not to mention a neat little bunch of "snake stories."

I. II. 28.

DEAR PAT,

Now that I am away from Australia, I can write my commendation, if it is worth having, of the Toc H Movement out there, without fear that it might appear that I am singing its praises for profit.

During my thirteen months in Australia I was in Melbourne most of the time, only being a fortnight in Sydney, and I only attended three Guest Nights in Melbourne—each time at Padre Jackson's place—and if you remember, it was at the third time I met you again, just before your departure for Tasmania.

Knowing, as you must, how different the life is in Australia and that there is a vast difference in the thought of the people from those at home, necessitated, of course, by the climate and the newness of the country, you will be able to understand when I say how surprised I was to receive exactly the same quiet but sincere welcome as I had received at different Branches and Groups at Home, and that the whole procedure was unvaried. It was in Sydney that I got the most pleasant surprise, for on my second day in the city I saw no fewer than six different fellows wearing the Toc H tie. I did not challenge them, for during the first three days I had to make practically all my engagements, etc. But on the fourth day I looked up a 'phone directory and rolled into 5, Hamilton Street. There again I got another surprise, for I met one, Albert White to wit, who was wearing one of the old Toc H ties, and very proud of it too, for it was one of the first batch that you and Tubby brought out. It made me want to dig mine out, but I couldn't do so, as I owe about two years' subs. I think. There I became separated from 1s. and had lunch. Pay first and eat afterwards. Whenever possible I saved money by parting with other shillings during the remainder of my stay in Sydney. It was there that I first met Miss Nancy Norris, and when later on, with some temerity, I told her that I knew you well in the old days, she made me promise that I would remember her to you if ever I should drop you a line.

I wonder how much the Sydney Branch owes to Miss Norris with her inimitable smile and her ever-ready help. Not even Sydney could tell me that—at least, judging by the little I saw of it—unless they should say perhaps its "very existence."

I took my *fiancée*, formerly a frequenter of New June, and I think by now a member of the L. W. H. Sydney, to the initial Guest-night of the Randwick Group. There again I found a greater similarity to the functions at Home than I ever expected. Just as the initial Guest-nights of new Groups or new Branches or even of the Birthday Festivals at home are all so similar and yet paradoxically all so different, so was Randwick's. The majority of the members were young, very young in fact, but all had that pride of having already achieved something, and that greater pride in the vision of still greater things to do, and the courage to do them. It is astounding to me how each new function throws some new light on the ideals and aims of Toc H, and though I had been to a fair number of different Branches and Groups at home and often have the JOURNAL sent out to me by one of my chums, I can still learn something new and get fresh inspirations from even such newcomers as one of Australia's newest Groups. And it seemed to me that here was the birth of a new avalanche, unheralded and unknown to the world, just starting off, and even if not destined to sweep aside all things pernicious, at least it would fill up many of the potholes. Before I left Sydney I parted with 3s. 6d. and have already received one copy of the *Link*. . . . I had a very good time in Australia, especially as regards work, for I went back to the engineering profession. . . .

The first night out from Sydney, being a late bird, I was padding the deck about 11.30 p.m. when I was joined by a R.C. Padre, and we got talking about the usual range of subjects, including Toc H (chiefly that in fact). This Father T—, a Presbyterian Minister and a Methodist Minister

had joined forces and formed a men's club, cricket, etc., at some place in Queensland I think he said. One day he and one of the other ministers, who was giving Tubby a lot of support, met Tubby in the main street and became acquainted, had a pow-pow and moved on; but unfortunately Father T—— got moved further on immediately afterwards, so did not come into any closer touch with Toc H. A day or two afterwards I heard one of the lady passengers humming *Rogerus*, so I immediately went up to her and said, "Hullo, what do you know of Toc H?" very much to her surprise I can assure you, but she countered with "And what do you know?" Anyway it turned out that she had been a member of the L. W. H. in England. On another occasion a party of us went up to the hills by motor from Sourabaya, and coming back one of the ladies started to sing "*Under the Lilac*," so I challenged her too, and it was some relation of hers who is secretary of the L. W. H. in Perth. Coming out from England we had on board a Toc H Padre, A. H. Culmer, so I can safely say I've been three-quarters of the way round the world and still keep coming in touch with Toc H, and looking up some of my old JOURNALS I see that I ought to have called on one bloke in Singapore, and if I have to go across to our other company in Takopa I'll certainly look up Clark in Penang.

Now I am in the jungles of South Siam, tin-dredging on one of the rivers, and our only communication with civilisation is a 16-mile light railway down to Sichon on the coast, where a small line of steamers call once a week, weather and monsoons permitting. If not, all our stuff has to be brought from or sent to Nakon by pack pony, about 40 miles further down the coast. At present the 16 miles has to be done on foot or pony, owing to all the bridges being somewhere in the Gulf of Siam, without return tickets, through the floods caused by a terrific monsoon last week. Here we are fairly high up and so have practically no trouble from mosquitoes and very little danger from fever. Of course we have the usual small pests in the way of wild elephants, tigers, panthers and a type of wild cow—most dangerous of all, stands 8 ft. at the shoulder and charges as soon as it sees or smells you. Pythons, cobras, innumerable other types of snakes, lizards like young crocodiles and very poisonous, chameleons, scorpions and a medley of other vicious creatures and insects abound, and though we often see these things, one is very rarely attacked or bitten. This morning an 8 ft. hooded cobra slid across the track 2 ft. in front of me, gave me a bit of a fright, for I'm not quite used to these little pets. Some time ago, just after I arrived here, the dredgemaister saw a 10 ft. python disappearing into the undergrowth, so as he wanted a new belt, he grabbed its tail, knowing it couldn't get back at him, and tried to snatch it out to hit it over the head, but he might as well have tried to pull an elephant back by its tail. Last week I was up among the rafters of my bungalow altering the wiring of my electric lights, and had just got down and started to fix the switch by the door, when a 6 ft. green snake dropped from the eaves on to my verandah. I managed to hit it with a hammer at a 3 yard range, but it just gave a wriggle and went on, and by the time I had picked up a stick it was missing.

I have rather a decent job here; at present I am in a steam-driven dredge as an assistant dredgemaister, but before the end of the year I shall probably be made chief engineer, or I may have to go over to Takopa to take charge there. Here I have what is, to me, an ideal sort of job, at more than four times what I was drawing at home, and cost of living very little higher, especially considering the style in which we live, and I always liked the country in preference to the towns. Also I have little time to spare for I am still studying oil and steam engines, electrical gear, theory and practice, and am learning Siamese and Malay and shall try to take up Chinese, though Siamese is the next hardest language in the world to learn after Chinese . . . I send the heartiest of Birthday greetings to Toc H and wish it further successes for its New Year . . .

J. F. VICKERS

(the one-time "Vicar of Stockport"!).

An Animal Story from Rhodesia

WHILE we are on the subject of natural history (*homo sapiens*, as zoologists call him, sub-species *Toc H*, variety *australiensis*, and reptiles much less attractive) it would be a pity to miss a charming animal story which reached Tubby last autumn in a letter from Col. J. A. Methuen, D.S.O., of Umtali, Rhodesia. He writes :—

My dear Padre,—

It's just about time I wrote to you again; don't you think so? To begin with, I must tell you about an extraordinary incident that happened yesterday. I had just finished my lunch and was still sitting at the table when a grey monkey (a small species) walked in at the open door limping on a hind leg. It looked up at me when it came in, then walked right round the room, climbed up the leg of my chair and sat on my knee, shut its eyes and leaned its little head on my arm. At first I was afraid to touch it in case I got a bite; I've been bitten before and don't like it. I was wondering why it had been limping and noticed some blood on its leg, and, on pushing the hair away, saw a small hole and felt something hard on the other side of the leg which moved when I touched it. It felt like a small bullet under the skin, so I worked it gradually round over its knee to where the hole was, and then tried to get it out, but could not do so. The monkey never opened its eyes once while I was doing this. I called my native to come and help me get the thing, whatever it was, out, and as he was some way off, I had to shout loudly and was afraid I would frighten the monkey away and it would upset and break things on the way out, but it never moved. With the help of the native I got a No. 2 air-gun pellet out of the hole, and as I was looking at it the monkey put out its hand, got hold of it, and swallowed it before I realised what had happened. I then felt round the leg to see if any bones were broken, but everything was all right. The monkey looked up at me, got down and quietly walked out of the door and I haven't seen a sign of it since. I asked everyone round about if they had a tame monkey, but could not find anyone who had one! . . . Did a monkey ever call on you? . . .

THE PERFECT JOBMASTER

(As seen by "Wilfrid," Acting Jobmaster of Bloemfontein).

THE JOBMASTER must be the flywheel of the Movement; to keep spinning and to preserve equilibrium and momentum	STEADFASTNESS.
Take the whole weight of the Movement on his shoulders	STRENGTH.
Know every member personally and be <i>persona grata</i>	TACT.
Be able to "come to" with all sorts of organisations	VERSATILITY.
To find what each bloke likes to do and can do best	SYMPATHY.
Be able to see a job coming .. VISION. How to do it	ORGANISATION.
And Appreciate it when done .. COURTESY. Even though humanly imperfect	REASONABLENESS.
To make jobs when jobs are scarce	IMAGINATION.
And helpers when they are plentiful	ENTHUSIASM.
To know a Toc H job from a lazy man's pretext	DISCRIMINATION.
To lead and not to drive	LEADERSHIP.
To show a bloke how to start a job	INITIATIVE.
Keep himself modest and allow the blokes a look-in	MODESTY.
Tackle an impossible Job .. COURAGE. And get others to help him with it ..	FAITH.
See that it is jolly well done	ENERGY.
To seek first the <i>Kingdom of God</i> and to find it in his own heart and those of his Brethren	SERVICE.
To give up his own time and inclination	SACRIFICE.
Qualifications for an Archangel !—but in human fashion and degree all essential to	SUCCESS.

IN MEMORIAM

Sibell, Countess Grosvenor : A Vice-President

With the death on January 4 of Lady Grosvenor, at the age of 74, there passed over one of the true benefactors of Toc H in its re-birth after the War and one of the earliest of its Vice-Presidents. For a number of years past she had been an invalid, but there must still be a little handful of members who can recall the old Executive Committee of 1921 rising to its feet as Lady Grosvenor came in to take her place among them and to follow with the keenest interest the discussion of the problems of growth in those pre-Charter days. At the age of nineteen she married Earl Grosvenor; she bore him a son, the present Duke of Westminster, and two daughters. Three years after Lord Grosvenor's death, in 1884, she married George Wyndham, still remembered as one of the ablest and most charming men of his time. "It was indeed" (says the *Times*) "a 'marriage of true minds,' and so it continued to the end." Into all his interests she entered with keen sympathy. "Her interest in politics was accidental," and George Wyndham was not a fortunate politician. But his great range of reading and writing, his personal friendships with authors and artists and idealists of all kinds, which she shared with him to the full, made their home at Saighton Grange, near Chester, a centre of sweetness and light, while "to both of them religion was a deeply-felt influence in their lives." In later life two crushing blows fell upon her—the passing of George Wyndham in 1913, followed in 1914, in the second month of the War, by the death in action near Soissons of Percy, their only child. "Lady Grosvenor was a lady of great beauty both of mind and of person, uniting grace and charm with a singular sweetness of character and an endearing loving-kindness; . . . she was admired and beloved by men and women alike for her goodness, her personal charm, her excellent taste, and her interest in things of the mind."

Francis John Gordge : Hon. Secretary of Worthing Branch

On Sunday, January 27, "Uncle Frank," as his fellow-members of Toc H affectionately called him, passed over to the Elder Brethren. Several months of ill-health led up to two operations, from the second of which he only rallied for a few hours. Frank Gordge was born in 1870, and at the age of thirteen entered the Postal Service, in which he advanced steadily. He had been Postmaster of Worthing for nearly ten years, and was due to retire this month. For some three years he had been Secretary of Toc H at Worthing, and the growth and work of the Branch owe a very great debt to him: he was a true friend and counsellor to Toc H and L.W.H. alike. Indeed the whole town of Worthing feels his loss. For he was a sidesman and secretary of the Parochial Church Council at St. Paul's, the founder of the local Civil Service Association, and intended on his retirement from the Post Office to seek election on the Town Council. But now (as the local newspaper well says) "he has joined a higher Council than that to which he sought election, and will have far greater opportunities of service than he would have had here."

Walter Ashley Brown : Folkestone Branch : December 20

He is not dead! Upon the cliff's sad brow
The russet trembling forest whispers still;
The sheep are cradled in their pastures now,
Beyond the hill.

He is not dead! The sun that seems to die,
And in the West its crimson life-blood spill,
Is waking in some golden summer sky
Beyond the hill.

He is not dead! Across celestial Time
His aureole Spirit gleams with Light, until
We cross the Dawn, and meet him as we climb
Beyond the Hill!

T. C. H.

Francis Cuyler Holland : Chairman, Victoria Group, B.C.

Victoria, British Columbia, has suffered a very great loss by the passing over of its Chairman and Pilot, Frank Holland—"one of those quiet, 'doing' fellows to whom Toc H and its work was the very breath of life." In January last year, a few months after the Group had been founded by Harry Ellison, "Holly" wrote: "We have not yet, I think, quite got the Old House feeling of open doors to all the world which I take to be an essential part of the spirit of Toc H and without which it will not spread as it should. For myself I should like to see '*Klubovya Tilicum*'* or some similar message over all Toc H meeting-places." "Holly" was born in 1899 in Canada, came to school in England in 1912, went on through Sandhurst into the 2nd Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. In France he took over the remnants of the platoon commanded by his brother Jack who fell in 1916. After the War he studied architecture in London; he was also a landscape painter of great promise. He married in England in 1926, and returned as an architect to his native town of Victoria. He played a very active part in the Group's Birthday celebrations on December 16 (*see p. 45*)—and on December 28, after a mastoid operation, he passed over, in his thirtieth year.

IN A NEWFOUNDLAND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The following account from a Newfoundland member gives a vivid impression of the big corporate job which Toc H at St. John's has tackled and is carrying through.

AS I first became interested in Toc H when the question of running Sudbury Hospital was raised, I have fairly clear recollections of what took place.

Rather more than twelve months ago the Great War Veterans' Association, many of whose executive are among our members, were disturbed by the decision of the Government to close Sudbury Hospital, which had been fitted up for the treatment of men disabled in the war. There were some ten patients occupying beds there, and many more were accustomed to attend as outpatients for massage, radio-therapeutic treatment, etc. The up-to-date electrical apparatus was, further, much used by those genial souls—the family doctors or G.P.'s. They came to Toc H and grouched—and you must agree their subject was one to enlist the sympathy of Christian men. It wasn't the unrest of dyspepsia, but of as clear an example of righteous indignation as you or I may meet before the millennium.

About the time that we were being made to squirm for taking no action a determined effort was made to acquire certain property and to start a children's hospital. It fell through. We saw a chance. Take over Sudbury, as a children's hospital, and make provision for the ex-Service cripple. The job was voted too big for a team, and the whole Group set to work on it. A chartered accountant and a biscuit-maker prepared estimates of cost of running and compared this with probable receipts, *i.e.*, (a) A Government grant per patient; (b) Private patients' fees for treatment; (c) X rays.

The Padre and a couple more started out begging, and in a short time raised a tidy fund. They say their's was an easy task, as they were met with open arms everywhere.

Three doctors turned architect, and in addition to examining the medical and surgical apparatus in the hospital, planned alterations and the position of wards in the new hospital-to-be. Another offered the loan of an operation table and sterilizer. Ladies of the Child Welfare Association proffered their support—and most gallantly and efficiently fulfilled their promises when called upon later. The Press stressed the need of the apparatus which the dismantling of the Hospital would put out of operation, and the case of the ex-soldier.

* It means "How are you, friend?" in the Chinook jargon, a medium of communication adopted by the Hudson's Bay Company for intercourse with the native races of Canada.

Armed with arguments and figures from these sources we approached the Government for a lease of the hospital and equipment so that we might run a Children's Hospital on the lines indicated. They granted a lease of one year, which is now being renewed, and in the offices of the G.W.V.A.—our home since we were burnt out—fifteen of us signed the deed of Incorporation of Sudbury Hospital, Ltd. Nine of the Group took on duties as Directors and in April last we admitted our first patients. In May we were full and have remained so. The fund subscribed is intact—we owe grateful thanks to twelve doctors who give their services free.

* * * * *

Jump in this sleigh; ten minutes behind the jingling bells over the snow and we'll be in the warm hall of the Hospital; then you'll be able to judge for yourself the worth of the job.

Ah! here's Matron, still as pleased as a child with a new doll's-house. She doesn't look as though she'd fifteen babies to look after, does she? Newfoundlander? Yes, trained in the States, didn't you Matron? but came back to help us build up the crippled kiddies? What's your last present from the Board? That old basement altered? A Turkish bath and laundry installed and someone has promised to give you \$200 towards the cost. And these are your first-floor treatment rooms for the private patients and some new and more comfortable furniture in the Nurses' sitting-room. Mrs. Read saw to that, did she?

How is the new floor in the operating room? And your soldiers? and the bigger children? All on the second floor, under the eye of Miss Berrigan.

But you want to persuade my friend to come to the top floor and see your babies, don't you? And then persuade him to return to *terra firma* by way of the fire escape—a canvas shute, old man—one run down it would do you more good than a fortnight in the bracing briny air of Blackpool or Brighton. Well, here we are; it's a good thing you didn't come at feeding-time—they howl a little then, but even then your faith in human nature—if it is failing, and sometimes it does—would be restored by Miss Porter's smile.

Ah! Matron wants her pets to show off for you. That little fellow standing at the foot of his cot, his round eyes fixed on her—how old? Oh, they're all something under a year old. Maladies? Club feet—a shapeless mass instead of feet, malnutrition, pneumonia. See this case here, he's broken his thumb at some time and it's reset itself—crooked. And none of 'em able to tell you anything.

What, you won't use the fire escape?—well, on your first visit you feel like that. You've probably seen what you'd never come across before, and yet these girls love that room. Good-bye, Miss Porter, Miss Berrigan. Good-bye, Matron. I expect I'll soon be along with someone else.

A HARD CASE

IN the November number of the JOURNAL (page 448) particulars were given of the case of a cripple boy on whose behalf an appeal was made by the Westminster Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. The Hon. Secretary now reports that this has had a happy issue, as on November 24 the boy was admitted to the Heritage Craft School, Chailey, where he has now settled down happily, continuing his trade of tailoring in return for board and lodging and pocket money. The Charity Organisation Society were put to the expense of £7 11s. 7d. before they could get this boy settled and the result of the mention of this case in the JOURNAL produced the sum of £1 6s. towards these expenses. If any members of Toc H would like to contribute further to clear off the balance of indebtedness, Miss W. Locket, of the Charity Organisation Society, 83, Cambridge Street, Warwick Square, S.W.1, would be most grateful; and those contributing would have the satisfaction of knowing that they have been instrumental in getting this boy's future assured.

NORTHERN IRELAND AREA CONFERENCE

THE first area Conference of Toc H in Ireland, Northern Section, was held in the Belfast Branch Rooms, 44a, Royal Avenue, on Saturday, January 12. Representatives from *Armagh*, *Belfast*, *Carrickfergus*, *Lurgan*, the League of Women Helpers, also one from *Downpatrick*, were present. About 70 were present at the evening meeting in Ye Olde Castle. The purpose of the Conference having been explained, there was a short address on the need for a nucleus of men and women in each town with some training in social service.

Jobmasters, pilots, and secretaries led discussions on "*What we are driving at.*" The possibilities of Toc H in the area were revealed by a long list of activities for each unit, most of which had never seen the light of day. The last three items dealt with "closer relationship," to be helped by gatherings such as this; "consolidation," for which one way was making each Branch or Group a centre of life. Then if one dropped out the work would still go on. Thus the Belfast Newsboys' Club had lost much from the death of its Secretary—but they still "carried on the torch." As for expansion, wherever they had taken root it depended on one or two people understanding the idea. In at least five places meetings had been held, some of them quite good; but there had been no visible results. In one centre twelve or fourteen young men were keen, but they had no leader.

It was announced that Padre H. Sawbridge, Manchester, proposed to revisit the area, from March 9 to 19. As on his previous visit he had delighted those who came in contact with him, the proposal was acclaimed. As all units, men and women, had been unable to explain what Toc H meant to the public of Northern Ireland, it was hoped that arrangements could be made with the B.B.C. for a short talk at an early date.

At the evening meeting the proceedings at the Conference were summarised, stress being laid on the fact that, good as the activities were, Toc H was an idea, a spirit; that each unit was a little team working for the good of the community in the direction in which it could be of most service. In *Lurgan*, after a successful cricket season, they had now about 120 applicants for their Boys' Club. In *Carrickfergus*, in addition to a club, they were now working for a library for the town and helping on with a housing scheme. *Armagh* had a long list of "jobs" to report, of which the most far-reaching was a "playground" scheme. The activities of the six units represented would total far more than a hundred, including lots of little things which no one had ever thought locally of doing before. Thus whitewashing a cottage for someone in poor circumstances possibly puzzled the recipient of the simple service, but was proper Toc H work.

Among the many doctrines put forward was that if a man or woman did not do his job properly he should not be a member, and this applied to the ordinary work of life. One or two dissented from the full implication of this. It was regretted that in Belfast at least they were not in sufficient contact with the workers, many of whom would appreciate the doctrines of sacrifice and service, and the absence of self-advertisement. At the evening meeting perhaps the strongest testimony was from a man who said that "Toc H was a friend of the wanderer." Through it the speaker had found a sphere, and some of his best friends.

ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS FOR GENERAL BRANCH

I DECLARE the result of the voting for three seats on the Central Council to represent the General Branch to have been as follows:—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. H. B. Ellison .. 888 votes. | 3. T. R. W. Lunt .. 702 votes |
| 2. Valentine Bell .. 729 " | 4. Norman Blake .. 392 " |

And I declare that the Rev. H. B. Ellison, Valentine Bell and T. R. W. Lunt have been elected Councillors.

25.1.1929.

R. C. GRANT, *General Secretary.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE NEW LAMPS

AS everyone knows, H.R.H. the Patron was not in England on December 8, the night of the Birthday Festival, though he was actually nearing the goal of his unprecedented journey—the bedside of H.M. the King. Before he left on his African tour he expressed his wish to light our new Lamps, as he has done since the beginning, on his return: he has now consented to do so on the evening of Saturday, April 27. The Central Council will meet also on that day instead of a week earlier as previously fixed. The special committee appointed by the Central Executive to make arrangements announce the main outline as follows:—

The whole programme will take place in the CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

2 p.m. CENTRAL COUNCIL meets in the *Upper House*.

7 p.m. Doors of Church House (entrance Great Smith Street) open to delegates of New Branches and donors of their Lamps only.

7.30 p.m. Doors of *Large Hall* open.

8 p.m. Arrival of H.R.H. the Patron; Notices and short speeches; The Lighting of Lamps; Family prayers.

There is no intention or possibility that this event should approach the scale of the annual Birthday Festival. Accommodation is very strictly limited. Each new Branch will be asked to send a Lamp and Banner-Bearer, and, if it can, a maximum of six representatives besides. In addition to donors of Lamps and a selected number of invited guests, and the members of the Central Council, there will be room for a limited number of Branch and Group representatives only. Details about these matters, as well as about meals, billets, charges, etc., will be published and circulated in due course.

MULTUM IN PARVO

▣ Hearty congratulations to NEW BRANCHES promoted by the Central Executive on February 6, as follows:— *At home*, STAVELEY, BRIDPORT, DULWICH, EDMONTON, GUILDFORD, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, UXBRIDGE, WALTHAMSTOW; in *Canada* MONTREAL has won again the Branch status which it lost in 1925; in *South Africa*, PIETERMARITZBURG No. 1, and PIETERMARITZBURG No. 2.

▣ The LIGHTING OF NEW LAMPS will take place on April 27, and Councillors are asked to note that the CENTRAL COUNCIL will meet on that day and not on April 20, as previously arranged (see notice on this page).

▣ The Central Executive have asked RONNIE GRANT to go out soon to South Africa to help organise Toc H in its rapid expansion there, and he has consented.

▣ An UNKNOWN SOLDIER'S CROSS has been granted to LUTON Branch for their Chapel.

▣ Rev. H. ARTHUR MEEK, General Secretary of the Regnal League, has been appointed an Hon. Association Padre of Toc H.

▣ Tubby has received from an anonymous donor the very fine gift of the freehold of No. 42, TRINITY SQUARE (Tower Hill). A note on the house and its proposed uses will appear in the March JOURNAL.

▣ "A new and much more suitable house" is being purchased for MARK I.C., WINNIPEG.

▣ A. W. BERRY (Ealing) has been appointed District Pilot of London, Western District.

▣ Toc H members wishing to be present, with Tubby, at the DEDICATION of the BRITISH CHURCH at YPRES on Palm Sunday, March 24, should apply to All Hallows Porch Room *at once*. They will be able to join the Ypres League Pilgrimage which assembles at Victoria Station at 9 a.m. on March 23. Total cost: 2nd class £3.17.9; 3rd class, £3.7.6.

▣ *Secretaries' List*: Additions and Alterations: (a) *New Groups—at home*: HARTPUR, F.C. Dance, School House, Hartpur, Gloucester; HUNGERFORD, E. W. Munford, Printing Works, Hungerford. *Overseas—New Zealand*: AUCKLAND II, J. Stewart, 18, Gladwin Road, One Tree Hill, Auckland. *South Africa, Transvaal*: BRAKPAN, S. H. Maxwell, Survey Office, State Mines; *Cape Province East*: BATHURST, CAMBRIDGE, CRADOCK MORTIMER, UMTATA (Secretaries not yet notified); *Cape Province West*: SIMONSTOWN, A. L. Goodman, Expense Accounts Dept., H.M. Dockyard; *Natal*: MALVERN, A. G. Ash, Ethelbert Road.

(b) *Change of Secretary—At home*: ALDERSHOT, H. W. Sandy, 26, Park Road; BLACKBURN, T. Greenbank, Room 13, 15a, Preston New Road; BRIDLINGTON, C. F. Dunn, 9, Pembroke Terrace; CARSHALTON, K. J. Grist, "Heytesbury," Banstead Road; CATERICK, H. S. Shave, E. Coy., Training Battalion, Royal Corps of Signals; DEESIDE AND DISTRICT, F. Chisnell, c/o Mrs. Thomas, 15, Rowden Villas, Shotton, Chester; DONCASTER, F. E. Phillips, "Edenfield," Thorne Road; DULWICH, J. G. Howell, 53, Underhill Road, S.E.22; ECCLES, N. Donaldson, 15, Lansdale Road, Peel Green, Patricroft, Lancs; EXETER, L. Smale, 9, Bedford Circus; GATESHEAD, Foster Graham, 81, First Street; GRANGETOWN, R. Howard, 34, Cheetham Street; HARTLEPOOLS, C. Rowntree, "Downholme," Stockton Road, West Hartlepool; HEANOR, S. J. Baker, 92, Ray Street, Heanor, Notts; MACCLESFIELD, F. W. Legge, 72a, Mill Street; MORPETH, W. Lawson, 6, Harbottle Yard, Oldgate, Morpeth; NEWCASTLE (STEPNEY), W. Purvis, 23, Howard Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne; NEWPORT (Mon.), A. H. M. Spurrier, 55, Graig Park Avenue; NORTHALLERTON, C. Gill, 4, New Row; PARK STREET AND FROGMORE, F. J. E. Iles, 51, Park Street, near St. Albans; PORT TALBOT, Ivor Jenkins, 2, Romilly Buildings, Port Talbot, Glam.; RAINHAM, F. V. Elvy, 106, Rainham Road, Chatham; SOUTHAMPTON, T. V. Brewer, Spring Gardens, 58, Wilton Gardens, Shirley, Southampton; SOUTHEND,

G. Elsworthy, 21, Boscombe Road; STOCKTON-ON-TEES, J. Scott, 17, Cambridge Road, Thornaby-on-Tees; STOWMARKET, F. Roper, Butterfly Farm, Great Finborough, Stowmarket; SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD, W. H. Shore, 39, Coburn Street; SWINDON, B. J. W. Purchase, 41, Bath Road, Swindon; SYDENHAM, A. East, 7, Charleville Circus, Sydenham, S.E. 26; TAVISTOCK, G. A. Hutchings, 31, Crelake Park; WALLASEY, L. Peltor, 18, Hamlet Road; WALTHAMSTOW, F. R. Janes, 86, Eden Road, E.17; WATERLOO (Liverpool), L. Horsburgh, 1, Sandringham Road; WEST KENT, A. J. Milne-Smith, "Leyland," Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent; WEST MOORS, C. B. G. Whitmore, Tronville; WHITBY, F. Hudson, 30, Eray Street; WINDERMERE, J. Oldcorn, "Ellerthwaite," Windermere. *Overseas—Newfoundland*: St. JOHN'S, A. Chatswood, Kenna's Hill; *South Africa, Transvaal*: BENONI, F. E. Hand, Box 23; KRUGERSDORP, R. W. Geake, 106, Sievwright Avenue; PRETORIA, J. F. Hannah, c/o Dept. of Labour, Union Buildings; *Cape Province East*: PORT ELIZABETH, L. W. Blazey, Box 291; *Cape Province West*: FALSE BAY, Douglas Fraser, Deeds Office, Supreme Court Buildings, Cape Town; MAITLAND, Sid Ryan, Suffolk Street; *Natal*: DURBAN, C. W. Oldfield, Box 1501; IXOPO, W. H. Hiles, Ixopo. *Rhodesia*: BULAWAYO, A. Schierhout (Toc H), Grand Hotel.

(c) *Change of Secretary's Address*: ECCLESFIELD Secretary to 63, Town End Road, Ecclesfield, Sheffield; YEOVIL Secretary to 82, Crofton Park.

(d) *Cancellation*: The following have been cancelled—MANSFIELD Branch, WATH-ON-DEARNE (Mexborough District) Group, and GERMANTOWN (Pa., U.S.A.) Group.

(e) *Corrections—South Africa*: Secretary and address, SPRINGS (Transvaal) should read W. W. Wills, 7, 9th Street; Secretary of COOKHOUSE (Eastern Province) is Weddell (not Webdell); Secretary of EAST LONDON is Mouton (not Monton); Secretary of ESHOWE (Natal) is R. P. Veasey (not R. Meysey).

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

London Federation

In the *South Western District* WIMBLEDON and TWICKENHAM have been busy in connection with the distress in the mining areas, in addition to regular jobs. Fifty sacks of shoes and clothing were collected by Twickenham in a house-to-house collection. KINGSTON gave a hand to St. Dunstan's Carol Sunday and are undertaking fence-making for another cause. RICHMOND reports an increased membership and ESHER continues to help the Thames Ditton "Grove," which is showing signs of life. On St. Andrew's Day a few people were set "groping" at Putney, where consolidation is now the important work. The HOLBORN contact is "groping" vigorously.

The District combined with the *Southern District* to hear Tubby on November 14,

and again at a Twickenham Guest-night on January 9 to hear from Harry Willink fresh views on early days. At the time of reporting Tubby's preachment at WEST ACTON on February 3 was being anticipated, as also was Kingston's Birthday Party. The WOOLWICH New Year's Party was on January 10, when seven probationers were initiated and visitors from other units in the District were present—GREENWICH Group and LEWISHAM and BLACKHEATH and GREENWICH L.W.H.

London Sports Club.—The Toc H 7-a-Side Rugger Tournament will take place at New Barnet on Saturday, April 6. Entries should be sent to G. Batchelar at Mark 2, not later than March 16. Branch and Group Secretaries will receive all particulars in due course.

South-Eastern Area

TUNBRIDGE WELLS celebrated its sixth Birthday on January 5, when an Old Folks' Dinner and Entertainment were given to about 70 guests; 8 a.m. on January 6 saw 27 members at a Choral Celebration, which was followed by a "noisy brekker." A Re-dedication Service was held at St. Mark's in the evening at which Grand Light was observed and at which Padre Appleton preached. At the Guest-night on January 7, which commenced with an initiation, the Pilot of Mark 1, deputising for Padre Williams who was sick, outlined the progress of Toc H. Jobs include packing for the miners, under the local Appeal Scheme, visiting the old folks and delivering firewood to them, Boys' Clubs, Sunday School work and the like.

From No. 27 of *Jottings*, issued by the *First Countrymen's (West Kent) Branch*, we glean the information that the Annual General Meeting on December 12 was followed by the Branch Dinner, at the "modest sum of 2s. 6d." Lucky West Kent! During the dinner the Revs. W. A. Littlewood and F. W. Farmer were initiated as members. Todd

Thornbery, the outgoing Chairman, was accorded musical honours and speeches were made by Roy Pratt Boorman, Todd Thornbery, Padres Mallinson and Wright and Milne-Smith. The evening closed with Family Prayers and Auld Lang Syne. The arrangements for the dinner were ably carried out by EAST FARLEIGH Wing who, following up that good work, ran a Poultry Whist Drive in aid of the Children's Treat Funds on December 18 and the Winter Treat on December 21, when over 180 children sat down to a huge tea. A first-class entertainment followed, after which Father Christmas appeared and gave presents to all the children.

The OTFORD Wing, commenting on the 1928 Birthday Festival, says:—"It provided us with a profound realisation that Toc H is a real live organisation, propagating a pure and healthy atmosphere." Four Wing members attended SEVENOAKS Guest-night on December 18, when Padre H. C. Money spoke on the L.W.H. and the Four Points. A job for the daily delivery of milk to an invalid in Sevenoaks has been arranged with

the Sevenoaks Group. The PLATT Wing has been busy collecting for the miners.

FOLKESTONE has kept going with a variety of jobs; stewarding concerts and running a show, by which £40 was raised for the Branch new H.Q. Fund. A joint

meeting with the L.W.H. has been held and lantern lectures on "London's Omnibuses" and "Underground Railways" have appeared in the programme. Walter Brown, who passed forward on December 20, was a source of inspiration to the Branch, and is sadly missed.

Northern Home Counties and Eastern Area

From KENSWORTH in Bedfordshire comes the report of the starting of a Scout Troop and news that "the Wolf Cubs are well away." Collections of boots, clothing and cash have been made for the relief of the miners. On December 29 a Christmas Tea and Entertainment were given to 100 children. BEDFORD'S *Tinker Tic-Tocs* staged a delightful show at the Bedford Town Hall in mid-December in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Commenting on the show, the local papers said: "The 'T.T.T.'s' give many concerts around the countryside, but their performances in Bedford are so much like angels' visits that one sees far too little of them. It may be said at once that since last year they have improved tremendously. The show is infused with more verve and crispness and the humorous element has been considerably strengthened. . . . The concert party promises to become a Bedford institution."

BURY ST. EDMUND'S Group, which made a great success of Christmas Carol Singing for the Mayor's Fund, is busy with the Y.M.C.A. Junior Club and a Library for the local Sanatorium. Several IPSWICH members visited "The Loft" on the occasion of Ronnie Grant's talk.

BROXBORNE in Hertfordshire held a

Memorial Service in the Chapel on January 17 for Lieut.-Col. Caldecott, D.S.O., the first Branch Chairman, who passed forward in 1927. Blood transfusion was ably described by Mr. P. L. Oliver of the Blood Transfusion Service on January 25, when several local doctors were present; the Annual General Meeting was announced for February 1 and the Birthday Celebrations for February 15, 16 and 17. WALTHAM CROSS and Hertford are going strong and WARE is now a Wing.

NORWICH, which holds lively and well-attended Guest-nights once a fortnight, launched at St. Andrew's Hall in November an appeal for civic support on behalf of the deaf and dumb of the City, the idea being to provide a club in place of the present inadequate premises which are rented. The Lord Mayor, who presided, was supported by the Sheriff, a member of the Branch. An energetic committee is pressing on with the work. A whist drive in aid of the scheme realised £35. On November 15 "Sawbones" dedicated the recently acquired Chapel, in which the cross presented to the Branch at the Birthday Festival has been erected. Visits are made to LOWESTOFT, to whom the Rushlight was presented on October 15, and Norwich is also "digging the ground in another direction."

East Midlands Area

Number 14 of *The News Sheet* announced the *Leicester District* Pancake Party for February 9, LOUGHBOROUGH'S Birthday, with "Grantibus" as guest, for February 23, and Tubby's visits to Northampton, Leicester and Derby on April 25, 26 and 27 respectively. We gather from the same source that in the weeks immediately preceding Christmas, ANSTEY gave up its lecture and family nights

to sing carols in the district. About £24 was collected for the relief of Leicestershire miners and their kiddies. The biggest job tackled by BARDON HILL was the organising of an envelope appeal for St. Dunstan's. BEL-GRAVE reports the entertaining on January 7 of 167 poor kiddies at a Christmas Party, and COALVILLE the holding of Sunday evening Services at the Grand Picture House. Included

in the list of talks have been "Difficulties of Disarmament" and "The History of Toc H at Knutsford." The New Year was begun with a midnight service in the Chapel.

MARK XI., LEICESTER, reports a "full house" of 50, "poking our noses into the local appeal for the miners," and Christmas carolling for St. Dunstan's.

East Yorks and Lincs Area

GOOLE once again co-operated with the local L. W. H. in the organising of a New Year's Party for some of the poorer children of the town. The party was held in the National Schools, and as on previous occasions proved highly successful. LINCOLN joined with the L. W. H. in carol singing for St.

Dunstan's at Christmas time. The Annual General Meeting was held early in January. Four members and a few probationers have broken away from the parent body to establish a "Grove" in north-east Lincoln, and have already got going. "Dusty" Miller and Les Abdy are now at Lincoln Theological College.

West Midlands Area

In the WEST MIDLAND AREA developments are satisfactory. Hereford, Worcester, Newport (Salop), Wednesbury, Moseley and Small Heath are all "groping" and, we hope, will be qualified for their Rushlights soon.

Under the leadership of "Levi" of the WOLVERHAMPTON Branch and a few Rotarian friends a very successful New Year's gathering was held in the Boys' Club on Friday, January 4. 100 boys filled their tummies at a very substantial tea, and afterwards creditably entertained their parents and other friends. Their items included Folk dancing, gymnasium and finally a camp-fire sing-song. Valuable experience was gained, and the hope is expressed that the affair will be an annual one.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT have taken a hall for a month and are inviting young fellows and girls in on Sunday nights between eight and ten. The band will play and refreshments will be provided. This is a development of the Sunday evening entertainments which

had outgrown the accommodation available, making more extensive premises necessary.

BIRMINGHAM MARK VI. Branch organised the collection for St. Dunstan's in certain areas at Christmas, and carol parties for the Blind were organised by HARBORNE, KING'S NORTON and HANDSWORTH. The latter are growing slowly, jobs of importance being the new depot in their district for the Birmingham Hospitals' Contributory Scheme, and the taking of a belated survey of the social conditions and needs of their neighbourhood. This is also being done by several other families in the district. A District Christmas Party was held on January 5, when over 200 Toc H and L. W. H. members and friends had a gay evening and enjoyed a Toc H talk from Padre Kirby of Harborne—the family responsible for the arrangements. YENTON has had an interesting visitor in Ranger of Bombay Branch, who gave a first-rate account of the life of the family to which he belongs, and of their new Mark.

Wessex Area

BOURNEMOUTH reports progress in 1928 and a successful result to the Toc H public week in October, for the Endowment Fund. Entertainments have been given to various institutions and charity functions have

been stewarded. Santa Claus and his "double" toured the district at Christmas time and distributed gifts to over 200 poor children. The Branch Birthday Party and the Re-dedication were held on January 20 and 23.

The cross from the grave of an unknown Dorset warrior, which was presented to WIMBORNE at the Birthday Festival, was unveiled and installed in the Chapel on January 6. Padre A. L. led the company in prayer and subsequently Colonel White, C.O. of the Dorsetshire Regiment, unveiled the cross. "This is the most difficult thing I have ever been asked to do," he said, and continued that it was appropriate that the cross should be in one of Dorset's finest old towns to remind them of what the county had done. Last

Post was sounded by a bugler of the Dorsetshires and Reveille and the Regimental call concluded the service. Later, the Branch Padre conducted a service at the Minster and performed Light. The Rev. Bryan, Chaplain to the Forces at Bovington, who preached a convincing sermon, said: "Ten years of bickering are a pretty mean sequel to the war that was to end war." Representatives were present from PARKSTONE, WEST MOORS, WEYMOUTH, BRIDPORT, PIMPERNE and SPETISBURY-CUM-CHARLTON.

Wales

On October 27 NEWPORT celebrated their Birthday and officially opened their new rooms. The ceremony was performed by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Monmouth (the Rev. D. A. Roberts). After the dedication of the rooms, which are also to be used by the L. W. H., there was an adjournment to the Y.M.C.A. for tea. By great good fortune Padre Money and Miss Macfie from L.W.H. Headquarters were present at the function. After tea there was a Dedication Service in St. Woolos Pro-Cathedral, the address being given by Padre Money. Supper then followed at the King's Head Hotel, many of the neighbouring Groups being represented. The Group is busy ship-visiting and doing other jobs. They are very proud of their Concert Party, which is at the disposal of Groups and Branches in South Wales.

On November 29 Ronnie Grant and Higgon were at WREXHAM, where the Group had arranged afternoon and evening meetings. The evening meeting in particular was well attended, and we can but hope that some seed has been sown in the linking up of the North and South Wales Areas. On November 30 Sawbones joined Grant and Higgon at BANGOR, where they had very useful meetings in the afternoon under the Chairmanship of the Deputy-Mayor, in the evening with Sir Harry Reichel in the chair. This latter meeting was public, and at the end it was resolved to form a "Grove" and Sir Harry Reichel undertook to act as Chairman for the time

being. The attendance was not very large, but it was of the right material and a Group appears almost certain.

In January there was a big "push" in SOUTH WALES. The Prince's Picture and Window Display were at LLANELLY from January 7 to 12, at NEWPORT from 14th to 19th, and from 21st to 26th at CARDIFF. On 28th it wound up its South Wales' Tour by a week's stay at SWANSEA. Festivals at Llanelly and Cardiff, attended by many outside members, and a visit from Tubby also helped the whole area.

LLANELLY Group held their Birthday Festival on January 12. The Dedication Service was held in St. Peter's Church when the sermon was preached by the Dean of Llandaff, himself a member of Toc H. After the Church Service the festivities were continued at the Cleveland Hotel, where the Guests of Honour were the Mayor of Llanelly and the High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire, both of whom spoke. Toc H is very much alive in Llanelly, though the Group have a lonely furrow to plough, being very much cut off from other units. Swansea and Port Talbot were well represented at Llanelly's Festival. The same night a great function was taking place at Blaengwynfi, where a multitude of children were being fed under Toc H auspices.

On January 25 Tubby arrived in Wales. A meeting was held at 2.30 p.m. at ABER-GAVENNY under the chairmanship of the Mayor, Colonel J. W. Bishop. Quality not

quantity was the order of the day, and at the conclusion of the meeting a resolution was passed that a Group should be got under weigh. About half-a-dozen real stalwarts undertook to get busy and the prospects look rosy. At 8 p.m. we had a "refresher" meeting in Newport with Mr. Horace Lyne in the chair. The meeting was well attended and we hope that the upshot will be an accession of strength to the NEWPORT Group. On the Saturday, Tubby first of all inspected the Amphitheatre excavations at Caerleon and then went to BARRY, inspecting and admiring *en passant*, the Cardiff Branch Chapel. In the afternoon a friendly chat with the Barry Group at the house of their Jobmaster Price Hughes, whose better-half is the, or one of the, leading spirits in the local L. W. H. Then to Llandaff Cathedral where CARDIFF Branch had staged the first part of their Birthday Festival. The ceremony opened with a procession of Toc H Banners, some 20 Groups and Branches being represented. Tubby gave us of his best in his address. It is a treat to see him in something like good health again.

At the end of the service Tubby initiated the Bishop of Llandaff (aged 81, and a cripple in his chair) into Toc H. After the Service to Cox's Cafe, where a large assembly sat down to the Guest-night Supper. The Guest of the occasion, in addition to Tubby, was the Lord Mayor. On Sunday a family gathering of Toc H and L.W.H. was held at the Branch rooms, at which Barkis spoke.

Toc H in South Wales did much the same during the Festive season as Toc H elsewhere, *i.e.*, trying to make the season a little less un-festive for the down-and-outs and also for the down-and-not-outs. Practically all our Branches and Groups had some form of Christmas festivity for the children in the distressed areas, and there is plenty of scope for such activities, more's the pity. We thank all those who have contributed in money and in kind to help the South Wales Area. The need is as great as ever, but in future any *Money Contributions* should be sent to the Lord Mayor's Fund and marked for South Wales; but articles should be sent to Groups and Branches as heretofore. (See page 59.)

Scotland

ABERDEEN Group gave a treat to 100 children in Correction Wynd Mission Hall on Christmas Eve. After a good "tightener" there were games, community singing and "movies," the latter part of the entertainment

being given by Mr. Alex. Booth, a master at Robert Gordon's College, who brought along his "Baby Cine," and "Felix" and "Charlie" films. Santa Claus wound up the evening by presenting each child with a present.

Ireland, Northern Section

The *First Area Conference* is reported on page 77.

At Christmas BELFAST Branch helped with concert parties in various institutions and hospitals, and, also with the L. W. H., had a Christmas Dinner at the Newsboys' Club. The latter continues to flourish, singing and a jazz band being new activities giving wonderful results. LURGAN reports that the first venture from which they were really able to see results was a Christmas dinner to 120 boys and girls from poor parts of the town. A boys' club, recently started, becomes more and more attractive and has an attendance of up to 70 on each of the two nights of the

week on which it meets. ARMAGH'S activities are legion, from whitewashing to wireless installations and children's playgrounds. Making every job of service a real amusement is one of their principles. CARRICKFERGUS Group has been investigating the terrible slums of their ancient town, and are now working on a housing scheme. On the first Sunday of every month, all Toc H and L.W.H. members go, as far as possible, to morning services in their own churches, and during the service especially remember Toc H. The first meeting of a DUBLIN nucleus has been held.

News from Overseas Branches and Groups

CANADA

TORONTO held its Birthday Festival on December 8, to synchronise with home members. In spite of it being the first really cold night, about three hundred people were present, members of the Central Branch, the three other Toronto Groups, most of the members of Hamilton, Oakville and London (Ont.) Groups and various visitors. Community singing, conducted by a Toc H Rover, opened the evening; everyone struggled to outsing his neighbour and "Rogerum" was a terrific climax. There followed some *real* music excellently arranged by the L. W. H. members. The singing of the Birthday Hymn and an address by the West Toronto Padre led up to the central event of the evening, the lighting of all the Group Rushlights from the "Byng of Vimy" Lamp, the "parent" Lamp of Ontario which is at present in the care of Mark II. C. To the music of "O Valiant Hearts," the procession of Rushlights and Banners, led by the Lamp-bearer, entered from the back of the hall and passed through the standing audience to the platform. The Lamp was set on its pedestal, the Group representatives came forward, lit their Rushlights from the Lamp and formed up in a semicircle facing the audience. Then "Light": the chairman of Toronto Executive said the words of Remembrance, the procession retired again, and the ceremony closed with the saying of the Toc H prayer by the East Toronto Padre. Refreshments ended a very happy evening. The Christmas spirit broke out strongly in the House, with a Christmas-tree hung with gifts from one member to another. A less welcome sign of their childhood has been an outbreak of measles in the Mark.

British Columbia is to be congratulated on producing its own cyclostyled news sheet, *Tocaitch*, No. 3 of which appeared on New Year's Day. VANCOUVER celebrated its Birthday Festival on December 15-16. Members of Vancouver Branch, Vancouver Group 2,

North Vancouver and Chilliwack dined together at the University Club on Saturday evening. Frank Webb showed lantern slides of Toc H England and some war scenes and gave an outstanding talk; Harold Molson told the story of Gilbert Talbot; Col. H. T. Logan not only gave a review of the Toc H year in British Columbia (Gilbert Williams' visit, the organising of L.W.H., and Frank Webb's work) but later gave a single-handed version of *Romeo and Juliet*! On Sunday evening there was a service in the Chapel of Mark III. C., at which Padres H. M. Rae (United Church) and William Askey (C. of E.) spoke. VICTORIA held its Birthday Festival on the same day, with a service in Christ Church Cathedral, where the Dean preached. After the ceremony of "Light," the Group Banner was presented and dedicated. It is the gift of "Squire" Ravenhill and his sisters, in memory of his son, Leslie, who fell on April 24, 1915, during the second Battle of Ypres. While VANCOUVER Group 2 were discussing on December 19 their own shortcomings and deciding to launch out on a garret or cellar of their own as headquarters, they received an unexpected visit from "a chap who some months before had been helped over a very rough spot in his life by a member of the Group as a Toc H job. This chap now spoke up to extend his thanks. He had been a physical and mental wreck, he said, after discharge from hospital: Toc H had looked after him and found him an open-air job, and the result was that he had regained his health and was again on his feet. He hopes to be able to do as much for others and plans to join the Group. His statement near the end of an evening, in which some members had expressed their dissatisfaction with the progress being made by the Group, led to a little heart-opening, and various members confessed that Toc H had done a lot more good to them personally than they had been able to do to others."

NEW ZEALAND

From DUNEDIN, "the Edinburgh of the South," the scribe of this young Group who describes himself as "a Pakcha Maori, (which means born in N.Z.) of decided Welsh descent," reports progress. The Group, which meets fortnightly, has been

visiting the Orokonui Home at Waitati, the Benevolent Institution at Caversham, and the Anglican Boys Home at Vauxhall to give entertainments. A "splendid feeling and fellowship are much in evidence," and they are real ambassadors of the idea of Toc H.

SOUTH AFRICA

Things are moving apace (as already hinted several times lately in these pages) in the *Orange Free State* direction. The title of this section of Toc H South Africa is now officially enlarged to "O.F.S., *Griqualand West and Bechuanaland*." The Birthday Festival at KIMBERLEY on December 8 was far and away the most successful Toc H function yet held in these parts, and from every point of view proved a great inspiration to all who were able to be present. There was a good muster of KIMBERLEY and BARKLY WEST blokes and tour from the WINDSORTON "Grove." First there was a wonderful service at St. Cyprian's Cathedral based as far as possible on the service in Westminster Abbey last year. Those in the Family, as well as the Mayor and several City Councillors and other leading citizens whom the members were delighted to see present, acutely felt the need for a printed order of service, which however, funds did not permit, though the Toc H hymn sheets recently imported from Reading were a great help. Dean Robson's address left a deep impression. He seemed to get right down to the heart of things and to show that the smallest service courageously given could rank among the greatest. From the Cathedral the members, Toc Emmas and friends proceeded quietly to the Cenotaph. Here special arrangements had been made for the flamelights not to be lit till the arrival of the festival holders, and then, as the chairman started the words of the ceremony of "Light," the lights came on. A beautiful wreath of palm leaves, made by the Toc Emmas, and bearing Binyon's lines, was placed on the monument. The Supper in the Presbyterian Hall afterwards was all

that was needed in a temperature nearing the 100 mark, and the Guest-night showed the ability of Toc H to go quickly from solemnity to laughter. Perhaps the most remarkable moment of the evening was when "Gaika" (Padre W. H. Kinsey) read a letter to the Group from Tubby. This letter, written on May 2, had actually arrived five months before, but Uncle Harry had seen it and judged it so good (especially in its references to the "colour problem") that he had purloined it to have copies made—and so Kimberley were almost the last Group in the country to hear its contents. As it was, it would be hard to imagine a more fitting Birthday message. The joy of the Griqualand West Birthday Festival was somewhat marred by the knowledge that it was the last occasion on which Padre E. Mc. M. Winter would be present with the Kimberley Group. Padre Winter, who knew the old House at "Pop," has been with the Group almost from the beginning, and his departure for Kuruman will be keenly felt. At Christmas time the Group once again set about providing and distributing cheer to the poor of the town. The purchase of food, making up in parcels and distributing them to 75 cases gave work and to spare to jobmaster and members. The tea-room at the local cinema continues to be a most satisfactory job, and an average of four members a night are on duty there. The big job in the coming year will be the equipment of the Children's Playground in the Public Gardens. Some of the blokes had the great joy of spending an hour with Uncle Harry on the Kimberley Station a week before he sailed and hearing all about the splendid response to his appeal

for funds for two full-time men. Letters from the Melton Mowbray Branch and Beaconsfield Group bring with them a true sense of the family spirit. Twenty-two BARKLY WEST members turned up at their headquarters on Christmas day to make a speech or two, to toast the King, the Patron, the Toc H Movement, and All comrades in it in Africa and Overseas. The Group sent the following message in Afrikaans to Uncle Harry and Mrs. Ellison on board the *Balmoral Castle* at Cape Town:— "*Ons liefde en beste nense vergesal U op U reis Oom Hendrik en Tante Hendrina. Orders for JOURNAL coming in nicely.*" To which, on the following day, they received the reply "from Oom Hendrik en Tante Hendrina—All thanks, you splendid chaps. *Alles die beste tot siens.*" (Surely Mrs. Ellison's new name of "Aunt Henrietta" deserves to stay!—ED.)

From *Cape Province* the CLAREMONT sign sends this cheerful sign of life:—"Uncle Harry describes us as small, but stickers. (See October JOURNAL p. 402.) With recollections of last night still vivid, I would add 'but *not* sticky.' It was our private little Group Birthday party—our second. A chaste meal together, the simplicity of which reflected the cyclic depression of finance common enough when the brethren are thus evenly poised between pay-days; and then a general adjournment to the Tivoli Theatre, which is a variety house where

Capetown people work off any undesired reputation for respectability. There *is* an "atmosphere" about the place. For instance, why else should our most sober-minded Jobmaster suddenly conspire to co-operate actively in the show, with an impromptu performance of "There's a hole in my bucket"? A happy thought, of course, but we pointed out to him the wisdom of awaiting a direct invitation before embarking on that particular type of social service. And so the hilarity of the Group found other channels of outlet. Perhaps it is well that Birthdays come only once a year. But they *are* occasions for a little rejoicing."

From *Rhodesia* comes news of SALISBURY still alive and kicking—kicking harder since the visit of Harry Ellison. Not many new jobs of a permanent nature have been undertaken, but the old ones—hospital visiting, concerts, outings for orphans, etc., are being done more systematically. The old Jobmaster has gone home on leave but under his successor it is "business as usual." A new job (which does not come the way of home members!) is "running young ladies along to a girls' club once a week and seeing them safely home again: these girls would not otherwise be able to attend, owing to the danger of molestation by natives." The members are determined to "make the Group worthy of the Elder Brethren." It celebrated its Birthday at the same time as the Festival at home.

EAST AFRICA

The Secretary of KAMPALA (Uganda) writes: "We started with two members, Padre Morgan and myself, and now we number eleven and have three on probation. We have not rushed things at all; in fact we have gone very slowly and carefully, and I think we have been amply rewarded, as all are keen and very active. Two members have gone home on leave and shortly we shall lose another three, but we are trying our utmost to increase the range of our activities and hope by means of cheery Guest-nights to get into touch with a greater number

of men. We have received great assistance from a few of the women folk, and I have been asked to get into touch with the L.W.H. so that the ladies may have some organisation too. We have met regularly every week, and have had a Guest-night on an average once a month. We suffer from lack of time more than anything else. Games must be played and by 6.30 it is almost dark and then one begins to think of "sundowners" and dinner. Our main job has been the formation and the running of a Public Library. Quarters, consisting of three rooms, have been loaned

us by the Government, rent free. One of these has been used to house the books, another as a workroom, and the third as a reading room. We hold our Toc H meetings there every Monday evening at 9 p.m. The Library is open every evening except Saturday and Sunday, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Members and public who use it pay a subscription of 10s. per half year; the reading room, with papers, is free. A Toc H member acts as librarian each night. Over 600 books have been catalogued: these have all been given free by members of the community. Nearing the end of our first six months' running—we started on July 1—we have 35 members and have issued over 2,000 books. This has certainly been worth while, and next year we hope for a bumper membership, so that we can buy new books as they are published. One of our lady helpers, with the aid of a few others, arranged a concert, play and dance, from which we received over £55: we also received £20, being the balance from an Arts and Crafts Exhibition. So the library does well. Some of our members have also attended to the library at Namirembe Hospital, and have put this in order for the use of patients. When we have time we shall

also see to the library at the European Hospital. A number of members have agreed to act as examiners for the local Boy Scouts Association, which has been handicapped for some time by the lack of suitable examiners. We have also talked over the preliminaries of a scheme to provide shelter for street waifs. Most of the petty thieving and, at a later date, most of the housebreaking, is done by these boys who have no home. Their time is spent in the native and Indian bazaar, and at night they sleep in the cars which are parked there by Indian owners. We should be able to do some good in this direction. Other jobs will come along, and we hope to be able to tackle all and sundry. We have had some jolly good Guest-nights, and have listened to some interesting talks. We have heard from two different speakers about the six months' walk up from the coast in 1893 and the early days of the Protectorate. We have had a fine talk on "Folklore of the Bible," "Malaria"—the deadly enemy of the tropics, "Prison Systems"—with an explanation of the Borstal System, a debate on "Marriage," a talk on the C.M.S. attitude towards "Polygamy," and experiences of Northern Rhodesia by G. S. Latham, of the Livingstone Group.

SOUTH AMERICA

The report of the Birthday Festival at BUENOS AIRES fills nearly two whole pages of the B.A. *Standard* of December 2. The Festival took place on Saturday, December 1. It began with a service in St. Andrews Scots Church at 7 p.m., conducted by the Minister, Rev. Douglas Bruce, assisted by Canon Brady, Archdeacon Hodges, Canon Spanton, and Padres Macrurie, Hutchings, Law, and Ralph Jackson (Mark I, S. Am.) They used the "Pilgrim's Progress" service written for the 1924 Birthday Thanksgiving at All Hallows, and this is printed *verbatim* in the newspaper report. Afterwards over a hundred sat down to supper, laid in the open air of a glorious night on the cool *patio* of Mark I. Sir Malcolm Robertson (British Minister) took the head of the table, with

Lake Lake (Organising Secretary, South America) and Canon Brady (Missions to Seamen) beside him. A bust of the Patron stood on the table before them. Greetings and regrets that they could not be present were read from Valparaiso (Chile), Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo (Brazil) Groups, and from Bishop Every far away in Tucuman. After supper speeches and sing-song, all lights in the patio were extinguished, while Padre Jackson brought in the Lamp which he handed to Sir Malcolm Robertson: he in turn challenged the representatives of the new Buenos Aires Groups—No. 1 (Shackleton Group), No. 2 (Burney Wall), No. 3 (Western Suburbs)—who came forward to have their Rushlights lit. The ceremony of "Light," with family prayers, ended a great evening.